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Palestinians can raise own flags

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Palestinians can show their flag in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and in Israel for the first time without fear of arrest, according to Israeli officials. "The military authorities decided on Sunday to authorise Palestinians to raise the flag on private buildings, but not on public and municipal buildings for as long as they remain under the control of the military administration," Lieutenant-Colonel Hana' Rubin, spokesman for the administration, told AFP. "The Israeli military orders banning the display of the Palestinian flag have not been formally lifted, but the situation on the ground has taken over." Israeli border guards meanwhile prevented a group of Jewish settlers from setting fire to a Palestinian flag in Jerusalem's Old City to cheer from Palestinian power. "Bravo, border guards," a Palestinian shouted when guards confiscated a flag which settlers protesting the Israel-Palestinian accord on autonomy wanted to burn on the old city's walls, according to an AFP correspondent on the spot. The Green, white, red and black flags first appeared in the occupied territories on the eve of the Sept. 13 signing of the Palestinian autonomy deal and have since blossomed in their thousands.

Israeli planes attack Hizbollah bases

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Israeli warplanes Monday attacked guerrilla bases in South Lebanon. It was the first air raid by Israeli jets since the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed an agreement for limited Palestinian autonomy on Sept. 13 at the White House. Police said they had no immediate reports of casualties. The Israeli military command announced the strike and said that the targets were bases used by Hizbollah. It said all planes returned safely to base and that pilots reported accurate hits. No casualty figures were given. A Lebanese police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with regulations, said four jet fighters struck at 6:30 p.m. (1530 GMT) in the Apple province. The spokesman said the jets dropped scud missiles to deflect heat-seeking, anti-aircraft missiles fired by Hizbollah gunners. Local reporters said they saw at least three anti-aircraft missiles fired. They reported no hits. Earlier, Israeli and guerrilla fighters fought intermittent artillery duels in South Lebanon. Security sources said no casualties were reported in the exchanges, which occurred mainly in the Apple province and the central sector of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon.

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Jordan pledges all help to implement Israel-PLO accord

King Hussein and Arafat chart Jordanian-Palestinian coordination



His Majesty King Hussein Monday welcomes Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who arrived here on the first visit to Jordan after the Sept. 13 signing of the Israeli-Palestinian accord on Palestinian autonomy (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alian)

By Wafa Amr
 Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan pledged yesterday to extend full support and provide all means of assistance to the Palestinians in their efforts to implement the PLO-Israeli accord on self-rule, especially in preparations leading up to the implementation stage, Jordanian official sources said Monday.

His Majesty King Hussein conveyed this Jordanian decision to Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), during their meetings yesterday, the sources said. They told the Jordan Times that King Hussein also pledged to continue backing the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and to support the organisation in every way possible in its quest for achieving Palestinian national rights.

"Any signs of misunderstanding and hard feelings that were created by the conclusion of the PLO-Israeli accord (behind Jordan's back) were instantly wiped out when the two leaders met yesterday," one source said. "As far as I know, there was not a word of blame uttered during the exchange," the source added.

It was all smooth sailing. Hard feelings were all left behind, and we are about to witness a new era in Jordanian-Palestinian ties," he said.

It was not immediately clear what the two leaders discussed in specific, but the sources said that Jordan expressed its full readiness to help meet the Palestinian requests in the areas of security, training and organisation in the run-up to the Palestinians taking control of the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

It was too early to go into details, since meetings between the two sides were still continuing (last night), the sources said. But the extent of the new cooperation and coordination will become evident in the near future, they said.

Mr. Arafat, on his first visit to Jordan since the conclusion of the PLO-Israeli declaration of principles in August, said joint Jordanian-Palestinian coordination committees were restructured to accommodate new relations based on unity and strengthened cooperation.

King: Possibilities now open for peace in Mideast

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein said Monday that the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has opened the door for other possibilities for peace in the region. The King said that this is a goal Jordan has always yearned to achieve, stressing that the Palestinian-Israeli dimension was the most important one that had to be tackled in the peace process. In an interview with Canadian Television, the King said Jordan was at the forefront of Arab countries in shouldering huge responsibilities and burdens as a result of Israel's occupation of Arab territories.

The King stressed the need to reach an agreement over the presence of weapons of mass destruction in the region. He said there should be guarantees that these arms do not become source of menace to all countries in the region.

scending from the plane. "Thank you, thank you, thank you," Mr. Arafat told King Hussein at the airport referring to Jordan's full support for the Palestinian self-rule agreement. The PLO leader greeted with a warm and colourful welcoming ceremony also attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul

Salam Majali and other government officials. The King personally drove Mr. Arafat to the Hashemiyeh Palace for a private meeting. A general meeting followed, before Mr. Arafat addressed the press.

Jordan was initially angered that the PLO-Israeli accord was negotiated in secret in Oslo while Palestinians were attending peace talks in Washington in a joint delegation with Jordan. But King Hussein later reiterated his full support for the independent Palestinian decision, in line with a commitment he made in the 1974 Rabat Arab summit meeting.

"I want to start by thanking from the depth of my heart and soul His Majesty King Hussein for his kind, blessed and supportive stances that we value and which brought us to where we are," Mr. Arafat told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, in an arrival statement. He told a press conference following the meetings with King

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UAE may take Iran to World Court

DUBAI (R) — The United Arab Emirates said it might refer a dispute with Iran over three Gulf islands to the World Court, UAE officials were quoted Monday, as saying. They told the London-based Al Wasat magazine that the UAE might go to the United Nations and the World Court if bilateral talks on sovereignty were not resumed. It quoted Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zaid Al Nahayan as saying the UAE was not in favour of allowing a third party to enter into the dispute with Iran. "If Iran responds to this wish, then we are ready to go to Tehran... or we will have no other alternative but to go to the United Nations and other (world bodies)," he said.

Rao in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — India's prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and his delegation were welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, the state-run Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast, quoted Mr. Rao as saying that his talks with Iranian officials will focus on broadening cooperation. "Many grounds for cooperation between Tehran and Delhi, and their cultural and historical similarities, have strengthened ties between the two countries," Mr. Rao was quoted as telling reporters.

Turkish premier begins German visit

BONN (AFP) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller arrived Monday for a three-day visit focused on the situation of Turkish workers in Germany and bilateral relations, and held wide-ranging talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, officials said. Ms. Ciller's arrival was clouded by the bloody Kurdish rebellion in Turkey, when several hundred Kurds demonstrated in the Bonn government quarter against her visit, chanting slogans such as "Ciller, fascist" and "international solidarity." In two hours of political and economic talks with the chancellor, Ms. Ciller raised the possibility of a contract for the German construction of a nuclear power station in Turkey, sources in the visiting delegation told journalists.

Mediators call off Sarajevo meeting

ZAGREB (R) — International mediators called off a meeting of Bosnia's ethnic leaders previously scheduled for Tuesday at Sarajevo airport, U.N. officials said. "There won't be a meeting in Sarajevo tomorrow (Tuesday) because all sides have not shown sufficient flexibility," John Mills, spokesman for peace mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, told Reuters (see earlier story on page 10).

Arafat visit to Jordan crucial to course of Mideast peace

By Lamis K. Andoni
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The current round of talks between His Majesty King Hussein and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat constitutes a turning point in Jordanian-Palestinian relations that will be crucial to the course of the Middle East peace process.

For despite the strong reservations expressed by officials from both sides about the historic accord between Israel and the PLO, the fact that the organisation is now formally taking direct responsibility for the negotiations opens new and wide options for a more sound relationship and a departure from the mutual suspicions of the past, officials and analysts say.

At the same time neither leadership can afford to ignore the wave of confusion and uncertainty that has swept both Jordanians and Palestinians since the disclosure of the accord, mainly due to the lack of close coordination and a shared clear vision of the future relationship, the officials and analysts maintain.

There are different interpretations, given by Jordanian and Palestinian officials, for the absence of close coordination and the failure so far to chart a common strategy for the future.

Some Palestinian officials maintain that what went wrong was partly due to Jordan's reluctance to discuss future confederation — prior to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank. On the other hand, Jordanian officials, including members of the peace

negotiating team, counter that all efforts to promote coordination during the 23-month-old peace process were not taken seriously enough by the Palestinians.

Both arguments seem to underscore a basic difference in the attitude of the two sides towards their partnership, including the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which has separated following the Israeli recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the representative of the Palestinian people. The focal point of that difference is that while Jordan appeared keen to keep all of its future options open, the Palestinians' major concern was to assert an independent Palestinian identity and representation.

The Palestinians, particularly the PLO's concern, was to a large extent a reaction to long-term American and Israeli policies to exclude the organisation from peace-making efforts in the region.

PLO officials and Palestinian negotiators concede that in their eagerness to preempt any attempt to prevent an independent Palestinian representation they did not give adequate attention to coordination with Jordan.

Moreover, some do not conceal the PLO leadership's erstwhile fears about the U.S. and Israel turning to Jordan as the only partner had the negotiations reached a dead end, and had Israel not talked to the PLO.

Throughout the negotiations, these were problems which partly revealed mutual suspicions but also the absence of a clear Arab

negotiating strategy. These problems might have been swiftly contained by the two sides, but they were never properly addressed.

For example, reports about Jordan and Israel reaching an agenda during the seventh round (in October) had seriously alarmed the PLO leadership in Tunis, and a crisis was avoided only when the Jordanian government declared that it had no intention to sign the document prior to real progress being made on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Likewise, some Jordanian officials and negotiators did not hide their disappointment when news of an Israeli-Palestinian accord, that effectively exceeded an agenda, was being disclosed.

Consequently, the Palestinian leadership, or at least those involved in the secret negotiations that shocked the world, were determined to seize that moment when Israel was ready to recognise the PLO in order to assert the Palestinian identity in what they hoped would be an irreversible process.

In the bargain, the PLO leadership seems not to have given enough thought to the implications of the process on Jordan, especially in view of the fact that the majority of Palestinian refugees was residing in the kingdom.

According to one PLO official, the leadership was interested in reaching an agreement over future relationship with Jordan prior to the secret negotiations with Israel. "But we were not ready to accept a

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PLO to regroup PLA in Jordan, Egypt

By P.V. Vivekanand
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) decision to temporarily move the bulk of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) forces to Jordan and Egypt was one of the topics expected to be raised by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat during his talks Monday, informed sources said.

The sources said Mr. Arafat wanted to move the PLA units, estimated at around 12,000 soldiers, from Algeria, Sudan, Libya, Syria and Iraq to Jordan and Egypt head of their deployment as a police force in Palestinian autonomous areas in the occupied territories.

"Jordan and Egypt are geographically closer and also could offer better training facilities than others," said a senior PLO source in Amman.

According to the source, Mr. Arafat discussed the issue with President Hosni Mubarak Sunday and the Egyptian leader welcomed the idea. "We hope to secure a similar Jordanian response," said the source.

Under the present plans, the units stationed in Algeria, Libya and Sudan would also be moved to Egypt while those in Iraq and Syria will be transferred to Jordan where they would join the

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Arab League backs PLO deal

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — The Arab League threw its support behind the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal with Israel but said Monday that peace will come to the Middle East only when Israel withdraws from all occupied Arab territories.

The council considers the Palestinian-Israeli accord an important first step towards implementing the principle of land for peace, which should be followed by urgent steps on all fronts," a league statement said.

The position reflected Sunday's message to Arab League foreign ministers by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. He told them the accord is not a sellout but will lead to Palestinian control in all occupied territory, including Arab East Jerusalem.

The ministers stressed in the statement that the accord "must

Arab security committee set up

MINISTER OF State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan said Monday that the Arab League council decided in its Sunday/Monday meeting in Cairo to set up an "Arab national security" committee made up of Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Qatar, Sudan and Libya to follow up all issues related to "Arab national security, ways of safeguarding it and means to confront challenges facing the Arab Nation."

Mr. Hassan, who led the Jordanian delegation to the meetings, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, upon his return home that the council's deliberations were "very positive" and that the participants were "keen on achieving Arab solidarity and supporting collective Arab action at this crucial phase through which the Arab Nation is passing."

They specifically referred to Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. Any settlement must also

be quickly followed up by further steps... guaranteeing an Israeli pullout" from occupied Syrian, Lebanese and Jordanian territory.

guarantee the "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of return of Palestinians made refugees in 1948," when Israel was established, they added.

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Assad: PLO deal is no Arab gain

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has told an Egyptian newspaper that only Israel gained from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) self-rule deal and he will not silence Palestinians who oppose it.

"There was no justification for these secret talks and in my opinion they (the Arabs) have lost, as have the Arabs," Al Akhbar quoted him as saying in an interview with its editor, Ibrahim Saadeh.

"No one has gained except Israel," said Mr. Assad, whose country now holds the key to a general peace between Israel and its neighbours.

Although he said Syria "did

not bless and did not support" the Israel-PLO deal and could have blocked it if it had wished, he expressed personal bitterness at the way PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat reached it behind his back.

"Yes, the surprise was painful, especially as we know our brothers in the Palestinian revolution better than others do. "I personally spend three-quarters of my time on them and we have postponed many critical Syrian issues because of them."

"I volunteered to fight for Palestine when I was 16 years old," Mr. Assad said. "There was no justification for us to mobilise our economy for 40 or 50 years to serve the Palestinian cause."

Several left-wing factions with-

in the PLO are based in Damascus. Some hardline and Islamic fundamentalist groups outside the PLO also have headquarters or offices there.

"Then they demand in the West and Israel that we silence these groups. We say 'let (Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin silence Likud,'" Al Akhbar quoted Mr. Assad as saying.

Israel's main opposition party the rightwing Likud, also opposed the "Gaza-Jericho first" plan for interim Palestinian self-rule signed in Washington a week ago. The Syrian president said that although the accord "leaves everything in the hands of Israel," the "chances for peace have become better."

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Politicians send conflicting signals over question mark on Nov. 8 poll

By Ayman Al Safadi
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — While almost political forces in Jordan are in agreement that the Palestinian-Israeli self-rule agreement has brought many uncertainties to the country's political and socio-economic structure, they differ on how those new, largely unclear, variables would or should affect plans to hold parliamentary elections in November.

His Majesty King Hussein, who will have the ultimate say on the issue, has kept his options open, saying only that the plans to hold the elections as scheduled have not yet been altered.

The issue is being studied in light of the possibilities and implications that the Palestine Liberation Organisation

(PLO)-Israel agreement entails for Jordan, the King told journalists on Saturday, echoing a statement he had made earlier to the Washington Post. In that statement, he said: "We have a new situation now that necessitates us thinking about (holding the elections on the scheduled date) and examining it everywhere with the interest of maintaining democracy, yet at the same time maintaining cohesion in the country... This is something we are taking a look at."

In light of the new situation, some political parties and figures have been saying the postponement of the elections is a must, while others insist that such a move is not needed and will only be a dramatic setback to the democratisation process.

Proponents of delaying the

polls argue that the self-rule deal will be the central issue dominating the elections and will lead to a parliament exclusively elected over it. Many questions remain unanswered and the higher interests of the state require postponing the elections, they say.

"How can you have a legislative body that has been exclusively chosen over one issue," says Mustafa Hamameh, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan. "We don't want Jordan to become the centre of debate for the process," he maintains.

Considering the wide differences in society over the Palestinian-Israeli deal, divisions may arise at a time when national unity and cohesion is a necessity, says Abdul Hadi Al Majali, secretary general of the

Jordanian National Party Al Ahd.

But Jordan is not just Amman and Zerga, two major cities where there is a large Palestinian presence and where the self-rule deal is expected to dominate the electoral campaign, counters former cabinet minister Marwan Dudin.

Mr. Dudin does not believe that the Palestinian-Israeli deal will dominate the election campaigns in other parts of the Kingdom where priorities and agendas are different.

Proponents of postponing the polls fear that parties opposed to the Oslo deal will project it as "treason" and exploit the sentiments of people opposed to it, attracting more popularity for themselves in the process, and thus increasing their chances of winning parliamentary seats.

While radical leftists and ultra-nationalist parties are sure to follow this track, their limited support and influence among the voters leave the Islamists as the only party that can force the rejection of the deal as the dominant issue in the elections.

Islamic Action Front (IAF) officials say they will raise the issue in the elections because its Arab and Islamic dimensions cannot be overlooked. They stress, however, that the Constitution, the law and higher national interests will guide the handling of their opposition to the agreement during the campaign.

"Nothing will restrain us except for the Constitution, the law and the higher interests of the country. We will raise our rejection of (the PLO-Israeli

deal) in light of these basic principles," leading IAF member Hamzeh Mansour told the Jordan Times Sunday.

"Postponing the election would work against our democratic march," said Mr. Mansour, a former Amman deputy.

But rejecting arguments that delaying the elections will constitute a setback to the democratisation process, former Deputy Marwan Al Hmoud (Salt) said such a decision would be taken with a view "to reorganising the Jordanian house in a way that would correspond with the new situation."

Furthermore, democracy is not just about holding parliamentary elections, argues Mr. Majali. "We have freedom of speech, political parties are active," and postponing the elections will be a suitable thing to do in light of the many

demographic and political uncertainties, he says.

"(Both the regime and the people) believe that democracy is the right choice for Jordan and are committed to it. Postponing the elections will not be a move back from democracy," says Mr. Hmoud, maintaining that "most of the people" he talks to "support postponing the elections."

Former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat agrees.

"It is in the national interest to reconsider holding the elections at this point," he says, adding that the recent introduction of the one-person, one-vote formula into the electoral process has fragmented society and hurt national unity.

Holding the elections now "will make us face the new" (Continued on page 5)

Demjanjuk prepares for freedom

TEL AVIV (AP) — When the warden came to tell John Demjanjuk the supreme court had cleared the way for his release he took it calmly, prison authorities said Monday, noting he had yet to pack.

"He reacted with restraint. He wasn't excited. After all, it wasn't the first time he has had such news," prison authority spokesman Dudi Ben-Ami said.

Mr. Demjanjuk's departure from Israel had been delayed five times. On Sunday, the supreme court set aside appeals for a new Nazi war crimes trial, ending the long saga involving the retired Ohio auto worker.

Mr. Demjanjuk, 73, was acquitted July 29 of being "Ivan the Terrible," a Nazi guard who operated gas chambers at Treblinka camp in Poland during World War II. With the new ruling, he is free to leave the country, immediately.

But the prison authority will only release Mr. Demjanjuk upon presentation of a plane ticket and an entry permit to another country, Mr. Ben-Ami said. In the meantime, he remains in protective custody at Ayalon prison near Tel Aviv, where he has been held in isolation since he was extradited here in 1986.

Mr. Demjanjuk, 73, said he was waiting for his relatives to come get him, and expressed concern for his personal safety, Mr. Ben-Ami said.

"I am afraid what will happen to me on the flight when I will be alone," the daily Hadashot quoted Mr. Demjanjuk as saying.

A special prison security unit will escort Mr. Demjanjuk to the door of the jet, after that, he is on his own, Mr. Ben-Ami said.

Mr. Demjanjuk's family came to Israel with four bodyguards last month for an anticipated release, which the court subsequently delayed to debate further appeals.

Ed Nishnic, Mr. Demjanjuk's son-in-law, and U.S. Congressman James Traficant, a Democrat from Ohio, planned to leave Monday to escort Mr. Demjanjuk. Mr. Traficant said he expected Mr. Demjanjuk to be back in the United States before Friday.

The family had planned previously to take a direct flight, since various Nazi hunting groups in Europe threatened to have him detained if he touched down there in transit for the U.S.

The Youngstown-area lawbreaker said there have been several threats against Mr. Demjanjuk's safety.

"In hoping that my presence would deter anybody from harming him or his family," said Mr. Traficant, who would not give details about specific threats.

Sunday's ruling by Justice Theodore Orr was the sixth time the court has dealt with Mr. Demjanjuk's case since his acquittal, when a five-member panel said there was reasonable doubt about his identity as Ivan the Terrible but found that he had been present at other Nazi camps.



A Palestinian riding a horse-cart passes by the Bank of Palestine in Gaza City. The Bank of Palestine plans to open a branch in the West Bank town of Jericho, expected to be the base of the

Palestinian self-rule authority envisaged under the Sept. 13 agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel (AFP photo)

Israelis and Palestinians share concern for security

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Who will arrest and prosecute a dissident who launched an attack in Israel and then retreats to a Palestinian-run area in the Gaza Strip or West Bank?

What protection would Palestinians have against reprisals from Jewish settlers?

For both Israelis and Palestinians, the answers to security questions like these will be a major factor in determining the success or failure of the PLO-Israeli peace plan.

Under the plan, the Israelis will withdraw from Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho and Palestinians living in the area will be granted limited autonomy. Later, self-rule is to be expanded to other areas of the occupied West Bank, and the two sides will negotiate a permanent solution.

Israelis are worried that Muslim fundamentalists and leftist opponents of the accord will use the autonomous zones as launching pads for attacks on Israelis in Israel or the occupied lands. Israeli forces would not be able to get at attackers if Palestinians police are too weak or unwilling to help.

Palestinians worry that Israeli settlers will launch vigilante attacks on Arab residents or that the Israelis will not let PLO chief Yasser Arafat have the manpower and military hardware he needs to control his opponents.

Sari Nusseibeh, overall Palestinian coordinator of the transfer to self-rule, criticised statements from both Israeli and PLO officials about taking a hardline with opponents of the plan.

Dr. Nusseibeh said the emphasis should be on educating the public that the autonomy plan, not violence, would end Israeli occupation.

"I believe the only guarantee against any kind of action that might blow up the experiment is public opinion, which has to de-

termine whether such actions are good or harmful for Palestinians," he said.

Shlomo Gazi, a former chief of Israeli intelligence and now a senior researcher at the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, said Israel should give Palestinians the tools to do the job.

"If the Israeli army has helicopters, why shouldn't the Palestinians? If the Israeli army has armoured personnel carriers, why shouldn't they? Do we want them to fail?" said Mr. Gazi.

Starting in October 1992, Mr. Gazi and two other Israelis held secret meetings with three PLO officials every two months in Rome and London to explore the key security questions of a hand-over. In the talks:

— The Israelis proposed direct cooperation on intelligence gathering, but Palestinians wanted an international umbrella to avoid looking like collaborators.

— The Palestinians proposed joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols to safeguard against attacks by Jewish extremists, and insisted any attackers who sought shelter in PLO-run areas should be tried in Palestinian courts.

— The sides agreed Palestinian police should take control in stages, first in quiet areas and later in trouble spots, such as refugee camps.

The PLO-Israeli plan calls for a "strong police force" in the areas under Palestinian control but gives the Israeli army overall responsibility for Israelis, including 120,000 Jewish settlers, in the areas.

The size of the force and where it will find recruits is another issue.

PLO officials have suggested 20,000 to 30,000 police, many drawn from Mr. Arafat's guerrilla units in Yemen and elsewhere.

The daily Al Nahar newspaper in Jerusalem said 7,000 Palestinians would be recruited from the occupied areas and trained in Arab countries.

Israeli Police Minister Moshe

Shahal has said that number is "too high," rivaling the size of Israel's national police force of 23,000. He proposed that Egypt and Jordan help with training.

Among Israelis, distrust of Mr. Arafat and the PLO is deeply rooted and is being used by the opposition to rally support against the accord.

"We are choosing one band of terrorists to suppress another band of terrorists," said Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the opposition right-wing Likud Party.

The PLO, once it acquires control over the West Bank and Gaza, will be able to launch its own terror attacks against us and the Israeli army won't be able to enter in hot pursuit," he said.

There is also growing anxiety among some Palestinians that Mr. Arafat will import loyalist guerrillas to enforce his policies among the Palestinians in the occupied areas.

Dr. Nusseibeh said police needed firm human rights guidelines to preserve democracy and to assure there was no tension between Palestinians brought in from the outside and the local population.

Abdul Latif Ghaiath, a senior figure in the opposition here, said Mr. Arafat would use the armed force to crush opponents and he did not trust promises of democracy from the agreement's supporters.

"I do not think this coming (self-rule) authority will hesitate for a minute in using the police against those who oppose the settlement," said Mr. Ghaiath, who said the police force should not exceed 5,000.

Abdul Sattar Qassem, an also opponent of the plan, cited statements by PLO officials threatening to rein in anyone who violated the agreement.

"The PLO is showing its fangs, threatening to oppress the opposition," he said. "The battle between Palestinian and Palestinian is inevitable."

Occupied territories occupy economic elite

WASHINGTON (R) — The quest to support the historic peace deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will occupy the global economic elite this week when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank hold their annual meeting in Washington.

World Bank sources said the lending institution was moving at full speed to put an assistance package in place for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

However, the process is highly complex and help — even if everything goes without a hitch — is many months away.

"In one way it's harder than what is going on in the former Soviet Union since basic institutions such as a central bank do not exist," said one bank official, adding: "On the other hand, nothing has to be dismantled."

The IMF, for its part, can do little unless and until a Palesti-

nian state is formed, recognised by the United Nations, and then becomes a member — a protracted process.

The World Bank is less constrained but still faces a difficult process.

Even before a specific project to be supported can be identified, it must obtain a commitment from a third party country to guarantee the lending.

Guarantees could come from any member country, but officials now believe that an obvious choice will be Israel or Egypt, either separately or, perhaps, together.

How this will finally unfold is uncertain, but it is already clear that aid for the region will be based at least as much on politics as on hard-nosed economic considerations.

Already there is a behind-the-scenes debate on how the assistance should be organised with some grumblings about whether

the World Bank is the best institution for this effort, or whether the United States should take the lead.

The bank has proposed a \$3 billion, 10-year economic development plan for the West Bank and Gaza designed to improve economic conditions in a bid to make the peace process stick.

But the PLO is expected to ask the bank at least to double that amount because it does not include housing for an expected influx of returning refugees and new projects envisaged in the PLO-Israeli accord.

"It's too small a figure for the whole 10 years... we believe the Palestinian authority will need investments of not less than \$2 billion annually in the first two years to rebuild the economy," Samir Abdullah, head of the Palestinian team which helped compile the World Bank propos-

al, told Reuters in Amman. The plan is expected to serve as the focus of a U.S.-led international drive to provide financial backing for Palestinian self-rule.

Officials from the region were to gather on Monday and Tuesday under bank auspices to discuss regional cooperation, including what can be done to assist the PLO and the occupied territories.

The meeting had been planned prior to last Monday's historic handshake between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, so it is not expected that an assistance plan for the territories will emerge from the talks.

But with the new accord and the spirit of cooperation it represents, officials believe economic leaders from about 175 countries in the IMF and World Bank attending the meetings will put aid to the region high on the global economic agenda.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chief rabbi to meet with Pope Tuesday

MILAN (AFP) — Israel's Chief Rabbi Meir Lau said here Monday he is to meet with Pope John Paul II Tuesday for a strictly "spiritual meeting" that will not deal with any political or diplomatic issues. It will be the first such meeting between Israel's Chief rabbi and a Pope. The Vatican has no diplomatic relations with Israel. Various informed sources had forecast that the meeting might advance relations between Israel and the Vatican. But the rabbi made it clear that "neither diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel, nor political questions" would be discussed. He said he planned in his meeting at the Vatican to "renew the good relations that exist between us already." The chief rabbi came to Milan Sunday for a meeting organised by Rome's archdiocese entitled "men and religions for peace," gathering representatives for 300 different denominations worldwide.

Wife of Briton jailed in Iraq heads for home

BADGHAD (AFP) — Briton Julie Ride, whose husband Paul is serving a seven-year jail term for illegal entry into Iraq, left here for home Monday after seeing her husband. Julie Ride, who was in Iraq for four days on her third visit, made no comment other than to say that she was going back to Britain. She set off from Baghdad by road for Amman. Paul, 35, a 33-year-old catering manager, was detained last year near the border with Iraq while working in Kuwait and sentenced at a 10-minute hearing. Britain has repeatedly called on Iraq to set free the Briton. But Baghdad has said London should first release Iraqi assets which were frozen by the British authorities after the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Before setting out from London, Julie Ride said prospects for her husband's release were gloomy, because the British authorities had not changed their position. "All the Iraqis want is the release of their assets," she said.

Israel's missile falls short of nuclear shield

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The anti-missile Arrow missile Israel is developing as part of the U.S. "Star Wars" project will not offer real strategic defence against nuclear weapons, according to leading Israeli experts. The Arrow will not guarantee destruction of every incoming nuclear missile, said Reven Pedatzur of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies in a report published Monday. "The Arrow system like every other active defence system cannot, because of technological limitations, guarantee performance at this level. Thus a situation is possible in which the Arrow becomes operational, but is revealed as irrelevant to the threat facing us," he said. Mr. Pedatzur added that according to his study the Arrow may not be operational until 1999 or even later. Israeli intelligence fears Iran and perhaps several Arab states will have nuclear weapons within 10 years. Israel denies Western reports that it already has nuclear arms. The Arrow was successfully test-launched in February after a "relatively" successful test flight the previous September that guaranteed funding, following three failures since August 1990. The United States provided 80 per cent of the \$156 million follow-up agreed in April 1992, according to Israeli press reports.

Iraqi confesses to being Iranian spy bomber

BAGHDAD (AFP) — An Iraqi has made a dramatic televised confession to being an Iranian spy who planted a bomb in the centre of Baghdad last month. In a television interview late Sunday, Akil Mohammad Hashem said the Iranian authorities had paid him and two companions \$10,000 each to park a car bomb next to the Iraqi Ministry of Culture. But one of his accomplices got cold feet on the allotted day, Aug. 4, fearing tight security around the ministry, and they parked the primed car near the Ben Al Bitar hospital, where it later exploded, injuring five people, according to his televised confession. Hashem said he came from Basra province in the south of Iraq, where a brief revolt by Iraq's Shiite majority after the Gulf war of 1991 was snuffed out by the Iraqi armed forces. He said he had gone to Iran to escape conscription, and had been contacted by secret service officials and asked to plant the bomb.

Two dead as Greek freighter sinks off Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — A Greek freighter carrying oil capsized and sank off the Turkish Aegean coast on Monday and two crew members drowned, Turkey's Anatolian news agency reported. It said the 1,070-tonne Misa Aeged Stan sank 700 metres off the port of Aliaga where it had taken on crude oil. Police recovered the bodies of the victims. The captain and three crew members were rescued. Shipping authorities at Aliaga said strong winds may have caused the ship to go down. The public prosecutor started an investigation into the affair, Anatolia said.

15,000 Muslims protest Israel-PLO agreement

JAKARTA (AP) — About 15,000 Muslims have marched to a Jakarta Mosque to denounce the peace agreement between Israel and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a sellout of Palestine. "The Palestine land belongs to the Islamic people and should not be sold to anyone at any time," a group calling itself "Indonesian Committee for Islamic World Solidarity" said in a written statement distributed at Sunday's protest. It also denounced PLO leader Yasser Arafat, and demanded that he be replaced. "Arafat's decision to sign the agreement is illegal and should be opposed by all Muslims," it said. Indonesia has said it will recognise Israel only after all Arab countries have done so and the Arab-Israeli conflict has been settled. About 90 per cent of Indonesia's more than 180 million people are Muslims, making it the world's most populous Muslim country.

Egypt population grows by 1 every 26 seconds

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's population of more than 59 million people is growing by one every 26 seconds, according to an official study. According to figures of the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS) published in Cairo newspapers on Monday the population grew by 550,000 in the first half of 1993. The population was 58 million people in March 1992, it said last year. The growth rate has slowed to 2.3 per cent from about 2.7 per cent four years ago as family planning programmes bear results but numbers are still rising. The United Nations predicts the population will reach 100 million in 2020. Officials blame the population growth for poverty, bad health, ignorance, political extremism, and labour migration. The CAPMAS report said more than 2.5 million Egyptians live abroad.

Arafat postpones visit to Greece

ATHENS (AFP) — A visit by Yasser Arafat to Greece was postponed Monday because of his heavy programme following the signing of the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord and because of the forthcoming Greek elections. A new date will be fixed as "soon as possible," a statement from a Palestinian representative said Monday in Athens. Greek Foreign Minister Michalis Papaconstantinou said he regretted the postponement saying that Mr. Arafat had proposed alternative dates but they coincided with the Greek elections to be held on Oct. 10. He added Mr. Arafat would probably visit Greece "after the elections."

New 'government' in Western Sahara

ALGIERS (AFP) — Mohammed Abdul Aziz, president of the self-proclaimed Sahrawi Arab democratic republic, Sunday named a new government under "Prime Minister" Buchraya Hammoudi Bayun, the Western Sahara liberation movement Polisario announced. A key change in the new administration is the appointment of Ibrahim Ghali as minister of defence, a founding member of Polisario who advocates a hard line against Morocco. He replaces Mohammed Lamine Buhali, who has been dropped from the new "government." Morocco and the Polisario front are in conflict over control of Western Sahara, a former Spanish territory in northwest Africa. A United Nations sponsored referendum, due to be held by the end of the year, is to determine if Western Sahara will become independent or remain under Moroccan jurisdiction. A ceasefire ending 10 years of fighting between Moroccan and Polisario separatist forces was signed in 1990.

'Japanese red army on outskirts of Beirut'

TOKYO (AFP) — The clandestine Japanese Red Army (Sekigun), which is opposed to the PLO-Israeli accord on self-rule, has transferred its base from the Bekka Valley in eastern Lebanon to the outskirts of Beirut, the Yomiuri newspaper Monday quoted police as saying. The newspaper said other extremist groups — including Islamic fundamentalists — against the accord with the Palestinians had also left the Bekka Valley for the Beirut area, numerous acts of violence — is believed to receive support from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

13 sick Palestinian exiles to be allowed home

MARJ AL ZOUHOUR, Lebanon (AFP) — Thirteen ailing Palestinians among the more than 400 expelled from the Israeli-occupied territories more than nine months ago are to be allowed to return home, their spokesman said here Monday. Abdul Aziz Rantisi, speaking at the exiles' camp in South Lebanon, said he had been notified by the International Committee of the Red Cross that Israel had authorised the 13 sick exiles to return. He gave no date.

Spanish financier denies role in Kuwait scandals

KUWAIT (AP) — Spanish financier Javier de la Rosa denies any involvement in a scandal in which Kuwait lost an estimated \$4 billion in Spanish investments, the Al Siyassah daily reported Monday.

The newspaper quoted him as saying in an interview that the losses by the state-run Kuwait Investment Office were exaggerated and the affair mishandled.

"The issue could have been treated differently and all these losses could have been avoided by waiting for the market to improve," said the former vice-president of Grupo Torras, the holding company for the emirate's investments in Spain.

Kuwait has been plagued by scandals involving the embezzle-

ment of public money since its liberation from a seven-month Iraqi occupation in February 1991, raising a public outcry.

The interview in the pro-government daily was published despite a ban by the prosecutor-general, who is investigating the scandals, on publishing any reports on the scandals without approval.

A parliamentary committee has investigated the scandals and blamed the government for failing to choose efficient investments and exercise enough control over them.

A report by the government's accounting bureau said a contract between Grupo Torras and a consulting company owned by Mr. De la Rosa included articles

designed for embezzling public money.

Kuwaiti authorities are investigating enormous consulting fees paid to the company.

Mr. De la Rosa told Al Siyassah his company made \$50 million from share trading and that all he personally made was his monthly salary for consulting work.

The financier said Kuwaiti investments in Spain were valued at \$4.8 billion and that the emirate has regained \$900 million from its capital.

He said Kuwait made \$1 billion in profits on the investments in 1986 and \$200 million in 1987. "This calculation means that the losses did not exceed \$2.1 billion," Mr. De la Rosa said.

He defended top KIO executives, including members of the ruling Al Sabah family, saying they did not embezzle any money and that there was nothing to prove that they did "unless there were people who were... working to incriminate them."

The prosecutor-general last year froze the assets of Fuad Jafar, a senior KIO official, and those of Sheikh Khaled Nasser Al Sabah and Sheikh Fahad Mohammad Al Sabah, pending the results of an official investigation.

Parliament recently passed a law to protect public money that mandates severe punishment for embezzlers. But Kuwaitis fear the government will try to protect the big names involved in the KIO scandal.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 775111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Omnisciences
18:30 A comedy series
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 People Next Door
21:00 Faces and Places
21:30 Doc. Voyager
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature Film: "The Band Wagon"

PRAYER TIMES

05:01 Fajr
06:18 (Sunrise) Duha
12:58 Dhuhar
15:58 'Asr
18:40 Maghreb
19:57 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swireli, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teresian Church Tel. 622346
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625336
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624338
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684198
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures will continue their gradual drop so that normal summer conditions will prevail, and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 19/30
Aqaba 23/36
Deserts 17/32
Jordan Valley 23/37
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32°, Aqaba 37.8, Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Nidal Al Malsiri	751672
Dr. Hanna Mansour	750197
Dr. Naser Ibrahim	831039
Dr. Mohamed Al Ismail	753871
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salan pharmacy	636730
Yaacob pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Nairouh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	647632

IBRD:	
Dr. Ahmad Qam	(-)
Alqas pharmacy	(-)

ZARQA:	
Dr. Yousef Awad	968075
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	641176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	767111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	610230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	775111

Radio Jordan	77-1111
Water Authority	680108
Jordan Electricity Authority	815015
Electric Power	636381
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53300
Queens Alia Intl. Airport	08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	81381/352
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	64281/6
Abdel Maternity, J. Amn.	642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mulhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musasher Hospital	6672279
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bastur, J. Ashrafen	775112/6
Armeny, Shmeisani	894115
Queen Alia Hospital	686100
Amal Hospital	674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983322
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)983540
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikam Modern Hospital	(09)990990
IBRD:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)725555
Great Catholic Hospital	(02)727275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)747100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)414111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	Other Flights (Terminal 2)	MARKET PRICES
12:15 Laraca, Vienna (OS) 14:15 Cairo (MS) 14:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF) 15:30 Basra (Malam) 15:30 Beirut (RJ) 17:45 Dubai (AZ) 01:00 Bucharest (RO) 03:00 Sanaa (TY)	13:30 Cairo (MS) 13:30 Abu Dhabi (GF) 14:30 Riyadh (SU) 16:45 Rome (AZ) 18:20 Paris, Beirut (AF) 20:50 Beirut (ME) 06:00 Bucharest (RO) 06:15 Sanaa (TY)	Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple 680/380 Banana 680 Banana (Malangana) 620 Beans 720/620 Cabbage 140/80 Carrot 400/300 Cauliflower 250/200 Cucumbers (large) 140/70 Cucumbers (small) 250/180 Eggplant 260/180 Figs 260/200 Grape 850/650 Guava 240/240 Lemon 200/100 Marrow (large) 220/160 Marrow (small) 420/300 Mushrooms 180/100 Okra 950/750 Onion (dry) 240/150 Pepper (hot) 240/180 Pepper (sweet) 260/180 Potato 400/300 Tomato 120/80 Sweet melon 260/180 Watermelon 160/100

Handwritten note: "هذا هو الجدول"



MANAGEMENT COOPERATION: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Interior Minister Salameh Hammad Monday met with visiting Sudanese Interior Minister Abdul Karim Hussein. Mr. Hussein reviewed with Dr. Majali the general situation in the Arab region and cooperation between Jordan and Sudan in several fields. Mr. Hammad, later held separate talks with the Sudanese minister to review areas of mutual cooperation. Mr. Hammad briefed Mr. Hussein on the Jordanian decentralisation plan and provincial rule and the government's transfer of authority from the central government to the governors who will be able to supervise development projects more closely. He also outlined Jordan's parliamentary life and current preparations for the Nov. 8 general elections. Mr. Hussein said Sudan hopes to benefit from Jordan's experiences in local government administration and the management of development and services projects. Following the meetings Mr. Hussein left for home (Petra photo)

Minister says water rationing to continue, but plans to exploit Disi aquifer should help

AMMAN (Petra) — Because of the widening gap between the Kingdom's needs for potable water and available water sources, there is no alternative but to maintain the water distribution and rationing measures, said Minister of Water and Irrigation Bassam Kakish Monday.

Nearly 97 per cent of the country's total population receives drinking water through network, but the available resources fall short of meeting the actual requirements, said Mr. Kakish.

The actual need for potable water is 270 million cubic metres (MCM), but the ministry can supply only 206 MCM at present, Mr. Kakish explained.

As the ministry expects the gap to widen further by the year 2000, when the need for drinking water will reach 327 MCM, there is no alternative to retaining the water

distribution and rationing programmes, especially during the summer, said the minister.

But, he disclosed that the ministry has prepared a plan to provide for the extra needs that should suffice the Kingdom until the end of the century.

The ministry hopes to exploit the aquifer in Disi in the South-east and to desalinate brackish water found in the country, explained Mr. Kakish.

An intensive feasibility study is underway to examine the prospects of exploiting the Disi water and a Japanese company is currently studying the possibility of desalinating the brackish water, added the minister.

A third possibility is the utilisation of the Yarmouk River by building the Al Wahdah dam on the river, but the project has been stalled because of the lack of fund

said Mr. Kakish.

Referring to the construction of dams, the minister said plans for the building of dams and raising the walls of existing ones are underway in order to make available an additional 179 MCM of water annually, mainly for irrigation.

At present, the ministry is preparing designs and tender documents for the Karamah dam in the Jordan Valley, the minister announced.

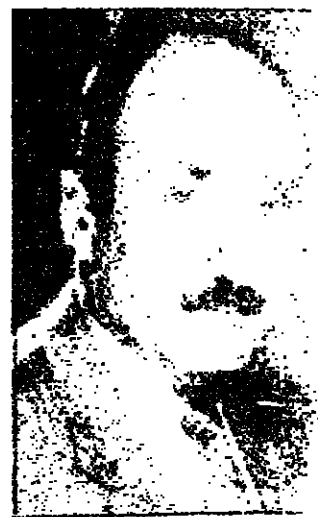
He said work on the projected dam, which should store up to 55 MCM of rain water, is scheduled to start by the end of 1993.

In addition, Mr. Kakish said the ministry has plans for the construction of the following dams: Al Waleh (nine MCM), Mujeb (12 MCM), Swaga (2.5 MCM) and Jordan (three MCM). Referring to the ministry's

plans to reduce or prevent water leakage from the existing networks, the minister said tenders were announced for the replacement of networks in three districts of Amman and the rest will be replaced once the financial resources have been secured, noting that the length of the network in the Amman area alone is estimated at 486 kilometres, much of it is old and in need of replacement.

Mr. Kakish said that the Kingdom has 11 groundwater basins of which nine have been overutilised, and the ministry has banned the drilling of artesian wells in all regions of the country until further notice.

He said the ministry has to date issued licences for 3,000 artesian wells and will issue no new licences in order to protect the groundwater resources.



Bassam Kakish

Irbid governor seals polluted water springs

IRBID (Petra) — Fifteen water springs in the Irbid governorate have been sealed after laboratory tests proved that water taken from them was polluted.

The announcement was made by Irbid Governor Fayez Abbadi, who is also chairman of the governorate's Public Safety Committee. Mr. Abbadi banned all water trucks from drawing water from these springs.

Samples of water taken from the springs and tested were found unfit for human consumption and therefore posed a danger to public safety, said the governor.

Mr. Abbadi, however, allowed trucks to draw water from these springs for construction purposes, animals and trees irrigation provided that trucks mark the sides of the tanks clearly with a notice saying the water is not potable.

In a circular sent to governors and heads of municipal councils in the districts where the springs are located, the governor said that guards

should be posted near the springs on a permanent basis to prevent anyone from drawing water from them, except for the above-mentioned purposes.

The measure followed the outbreak of typhoid in the Ajloun and Jerash districts of the Irbid governorate last week.

But the governor's statement did not link the spring closures to the typhoid. More than 150 persons complaining of high fever were admitted to hospitals in the Irbid governorate in the last two weeks and were treated as typhoid cases, but only 17 of them were diagnosed to having the infectious disease.

Meanwhile, the Health Department in Irbid Monday announced the launching of a wide-scale programme to ensure that all restaurants, shops and various public places abide by health safety regulations.

The director of the health department called on the public to make sure that their water tanks are cleaned and maintained regularly.

Industrial production outstrips agriculture

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian industrial sector, including mining, now produces and exports more than the agricultural sector, said Industry and Trade Minister Bassam Al Saket Monday.

Last year, the total value of industrial production was estimated at JD 1.7 billion, with much of the produced goods exported abroad, said the minister.

The total value of pharmaceutical products made in Jordan and exported to Arab and foreign countries amounted to \$55 million in 1992, added Dr. Saket.

He said that Jordanian industries that increasingly rely on locally produced primary materials are likely to be more successful than others.

Referring to investments in other fields, Dr. Saket said many capital holders have been investing in the services and education industries.

No less than JD 1 billion have been invested in the education industry in Jordan over the last 20 years, the minister said.

He said Jordan can increase investments in services, health care and other sectors by benefiting from the 35,000 engineers and 15,000 physicians in the country.

Meanwhile, the ministry of in-



Bassam Al Saket

dustrial and trade Monday announced that a total of JD 75.652 million have been invested in 508 projects in the first half of 1993. The figures included JD 6.4 million invested by non-Jordanian Arab and foreign entrepreneurs.

These projects, according to the ministry, were centered mainly in Amman, followed by Zarqa, Balqa, Irbid, Ma'arra, Ma'an, and Karak.

They include the production of foodstuffs, plastics, textiles, tissue paper, building materials, chemicals, cosmetics, leather, as well as engineering industries.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings and photographic pictures of old Baghdad by Nidal Nadim Mubshi at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of children's paintings at the British Council.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Nouri Al Rawi at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Egyptian artist H. Bicar at the Balqa' Art Gallery in Fuhels.
- ★ Permanent exhibition of 58 artists and "Chair" Exhibition at Darat Al Fuman of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jhal Lawlehdeh (10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) Tel. 643251-2
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Esbelleh Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Omar Al Basul entitled "Samples of Different Arts" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITION

- ★ Annual Scientific Nursing Exhibition at the exhibition hall in the University of Jordan's Student Affairs Department.

International conference to focus on contemporary business management issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — In cooperation with the International Academy of Business Disciplines (IABD), the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences of the University of Jordan will hold a conference at the university from Sept. 26-30 on "Management and Business Environment in the Commodity Driven Societies (Developing Countries)".

Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, and chairman of the conference, Muhsein Makhamreh, said the conference will discuss several research papers including: contemporary issues in international business management; and Mid-

die Eastern issues such as education, economics, business, water, regional conflicts and financial and administrative strategies.

In addition, the conference will address managerial and accounting information systems, cultural factors and their influence on managerial practices as well as privatisation, total quality management and global management.

Participants include university professors from the U.S., Europe, Arab countries and Jordan. The private sector establishments, the Jordan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, various associations and other professional organisations will take part in

the conference activities.

The International Academy of Business Disciplines (formerly the International Academy of Management and Marketing) is a worldwide, non-profit organisation established to foster education in all of the business disciplines. The objectives of IABD are to stimulate learning and understanding and to exchange information, ideas, and research results around the world. In addition, the academy seeks to bridge the gap between theory and practice, and seeks to increase the individual's awareness of business problems and opportunities in the international marketplace.

Jordan to participate in anti-nuclear arms conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Society of Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (JSPPNW) will take part in a meeting by the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) due to open in Mexico City on Sept. 29.

Mahmoud Humeidi, the deputy chairman of the JSPPNW said the meeting will be attended by 3,500 participants from various parts of the world.

Dr. Humeidi, who will lead a Jordanian team on Monday to the conference, said the delegates will discuss the termination of nuclear tests and ways of exposing nations that conduct such tests.

He said the conference will demand an immediate end to the manufacture and stockpiling of all types of weapons of mass destruction in the world.

He recalled that His Majesty King Hussein had sent a letter to

a previous meeting of the IPPNW held in Stockholm two years ago, in which he reaffirmed his determination to keep Jordan free of all weapons of mass destruction. The King said he would support the IPPNW's drive to do away with nuclear weapons worldwide, said Dr. Humeidi.

He added that the IPPNW is a non-government, non-political organisation that does not discriminate on religious or ethnic bases and supports efforts to end the use of nuclear arms.

He said that the IPPNW, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize,

aims at influencing international public opinion, particularly American, against war.

A team representing the organisation visited Jordan in December 1990 on its way to Iraq to study the situation while the world was watching out for the start of the Gulf war in the wake of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

The team announced then that the visit to Iraq was aimed at warning the world against a war in the Gulf where the use of nuclear weapons seemed a possibility at the time.

Visa advisory issued

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Monday announced that visitors to Russia should obtain entry visas from the Russian embassy in Amman. It said those wishing to visit any of the newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union are to obtain entry visas from the respective embassies in Moscow.

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* Promotional

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Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataa Al Hassan Monday accompanies his Omani counterpart Yousef Alawi from Cairo to Amman after attending an Arab League Council meeting there. (Petra photo)

Oman backs Jordan-Israel agenda

AMMAN (Petra) — Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Alawi Monday voiced his country's backing of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda on the peace talks and said he hoped that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel agreement on autonomy rule would serve as the first sound step on the path to peace.

Oman absolutely supports Jordan's policies at all levels and is confident that Jordan would not have reached the common agenda with Israel had it not been entirely sure of its benefit to the Arab Nation, said Mr. Alawi in an arrival statement.

The Omani minister is on a tour of Arab countries including

Qatar, Lebanon and Syria, following his attendance at the Arab League Council meeting in Cairo Sunday.

Referring to the PLO-Israel agreement, Mr. Alawi said it has been unanimously supported by the Arab League.

"But we hope that this deal would serve as a first step, and to succeed, it is in need of support from all Arab countries," added the Omani minister.

Emphasising the strong Omani-Jordanian ties at all levels, Mr. Alawi said that his visit falls within the framework of close contacts between Muscat and Amman aimed at further bolstering bilateral ties.

The current circumstances in

the Arab region require further deepening of relations and intensifying of contacts and consultations among Arab brothers, added Mr. Alawi.

"What we will discuss in Jordan is in the best interest of the Arab Nation," he said. Stressing the need for the Arab countries to re-establish solidarity and close cooperation among themselves, Mr. Alawi said that he was not carrying specific ideas to help attain that goal.

The Omani minister arrived in the company of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataa Al Hassan, who was also in Cairo to attend the Arab League Council meeting.

Population experts to address birth spacing, safe motherhood

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Population Commission in Jordan is organising a workshop entitled "Birth Spacing," due to open Sunday at the Amra Hotel.

The workshop, which will be organised in cooperation with the European Community (EC) office in Amman will review three working papers covering birth spacing and safe motherhood, according to the commission.

The two-day workshop will be attended by representatives of various concerned government departments, private institutions, universities and voluntary groups, said a commission statement.

Stressing the importance of the workshop, which will be held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, the commission said that the birth rate in Jordan now stands at 34 per thousand and the fertility rate among Jordanian women aged 15 to 49 stands at 56 per cent, one of



Jordan's birth rate has recently been estimated at 34 per thousand. (File photo)

the highest rates in the developing world.

According to the commission, the mortality rate in Jordan has now reached 39 per thousand thanks to the widespread mother and child health care services and the national vaccination campaigns against common diseases

services in Jordan. The statement noted that the infant mortality rate in Jordan has now reached 39 per thousand thanks to the widespread mother and child health care services and the national vaccination campaigns against common diseases

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Jordan Times

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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6719, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 6671716, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

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New pact for all times

PALESTINIAN LEADER Yasser Arafat's arrival in Amman yesterday, on a visit whose main aim is to exchange views and synchronise actions with His Majesty King Hussein in light of the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, offers an excellent opportunity to put the Jordanian-Palestinian relations back on track.

Jordan's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were briefly strained after the revelation of the PLO-Israel deal on interim self-rule for reasons that have become clear to all of us. Since the Madrid conference, Jordan and the PLO had been nursing a new relationship based on ideals of common destiny and unity of purpose. True, the painstakingly developed association was disturbed by the decision of PLO to strike a secret agreement with Israel. But, though this is not the first jolt in Jordan-PLO ties, we hope it will be the last.

The visit by Chairman Arafat could present a new opportunity for the PLO to cement a more coherent and solid relationship with Jordan. Both sides have a vested interest in forging more positive and stable contacts.

To start with, "the Gaza-Jericho first" deal calls for Jordanian cooperation and solidarity on all levels. Geographic, political economic and demographic realities render Jordan's full cooperation indispensable to the success of the Palestinian self-rule plan. This is not to mention the role that Jordan can play in handling the security issues that the accord raises. It is thus no exaggeration to say that Jordan could be the lung without which the truncated Palestinian mini-state cannot expect to breathe and survive. By the same token, what transpires and develops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will have immediate and direct reverberations in Jordan, and by extension the whole region.

The many previous attempts to maintain close Jordanian-Palestinian coordination have fallen far short of achieving the required level of mutual confidence. The sensitivity of the new political era in the region and its implications for Palestinians and Jordanians alike make it imperative on both sides to work jointly for a better and more secure future.

King Hussein has repeatedly stressed that Jordan seeks better and stronger ties with the PLO. The organisation's interests, and indeed duty towards its people, should also direct it towards the same path.

But success in building solid and credible channels of cooperation and coordination has its requirements. These include frankness, openness and a clear definition of goals and interests as well as rights and responsibilities. Above all, joint action requires mutual confidence. The absence of that basic element might have caused the previous failures. Its presence in the future would help guarantee the success of the current crucial attempt to maintain healthy Jordan-PLO ties, and, consequently, the recovery of the Palestinians' full rights on their national soil.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the meeting of the Arab League Council in Cairo, Al Dustour daily said Monday that among the 40 or more topics on the agenda, two stand out as the ones that should be given priority. One of these topics is the fast-moving developments in the Middle East peace process and the other is the need for re-establishing inter-Arab solidarity, said the paper. It is enough to see Arab foreign ministers meeting together so as to have renewed hope for a brighter future of relations among Arab governments, but it should be noted that ending inter-Arab differences requires a series of meetings at higher levels, said the daily. In the midst of the fast moving developments and the political changes around us, one can expect the Arab leaders to arrive at the minimum level of coordination among their countries, continued the daily. One cannot understand how Arabs are dealing with the Israelis directly and are shunning direct or indirect contacts with one another, added the daily. What is needed is serious dialogue among Arab leaders, ending with an overall reconciliation as we stand at the threshold of a new era in the Arab history, demanded the paper. We are facing a complete transformation in our struggle with the Israelis, and we are required to build inter-Arab relations based on solid bases that can help us deal with the new challenges, demanded the paper.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour expressed the view that there was more need for Jordanian-Palestinian coordination now than at any time in the past. In its struggle to set up its own entity and state, the PLO and the Palestinian people will find themselves in dire need of backing from Jordan lest the future Palestinian state should fall victim to the ambitious designs of Israel, said Taher Al Udwan. The writer said that the Palestine president has been calling for the formation of confederation with Jordan, but the situation has now changed because in three months' time the PLO would establish a new approach and new form of Palestinian-Jordanian coordination, said the writer. The Jordanian-Palestinian committees set up since the Madrid conference are now facing a new situation and new realities and they ought to embark on discussing matters related not only to temporary cooperation between the two sides but also to cooperation on permanent and more solid ground, suggested the writer. There is no doubt that the Jordanians and the Palestinians are in agreement on pursuing their cooperation and coordination due to the close demographic, geographic and social links, added the writer. Therefore, he said, it is imperative on the two sides to raise the level of coordination on all fronts.

The View from Fourth Circle

The Middle East's new maps and mindsets

By Rami G. Khouri

If the current Arab-Israeli peacemaking process achieves a just and stable peace, this region will enter into a long period of profound change that will be as widespread and lasting as was the period around 1920 when the modern Middle East was born. I say this because I believe that all the stable, structural forces that defined the modern Arab World for most of this century shall have been eliminated or overwhelmed by the emergence of other, more powerful indigenous forces that have been suppressed to date.

The five defining forces that will disappear are: the East-West cold war, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the distortions of petroleum income, the self-serving post-1920 regional and national mapping of the western powers and the politics of the emotional/ideological Middle Eastern mob (Nasserite-style Arab nationalism, Khomeini-style Islamic politicisation). The first four forces have kept the Middle East locked in its present state since the 1920s, the last force has been the region's moving, yet unsuccessful, cry for a different and a better Middle Eastern order.

The advent of Arab-Israeli peace will come on top of the end of the cold war, the region's diminished geo-strategic value to the world's powers and the decline in Mideast petro-power (because Arab/Iranian financial reserves will decline and because the industrial powers have already assured their direct control of the key Mideast oil basins). This scenario opens up enormous possibilities for change as the indigenous and natural ideological, economic, ethnic and nationalist forces in the Middle East have a chance to express themselves and to work out a new regional order.

We are in for a period of change that will be exciting, deep and often turbulent and violent, with widespread human suffering combined with new vistas of promise and justice. Our Middle Eastern era of change during the next several decades will probably follow very closely the pattern of the former Soviet bloc, with all its good and bad aspects — its wealth and poverty, innovation and regression, fears and hopes, and states being born and others dying.

The decline in the five macro-forces that I mentioned above will result in enormous pressures to end or to radically change the key micro-forces that have ravaged the Middle East since mid-century. The defining Arab Middle Eastern micro-forces at the state level that will be challenged include:

— Exaggerated central government controls of fiscal and military resources and, therefore, of political power, leading to institutionalised violence, massive human rights abuses and chronic favouritism and corruption;
— rampant incompetence, abuse, whimsy, inefficiency and mediocrity in economic management by the state; this has led to the current pan-Arab condition of indebtedness, stagnant or declining real per capita income levels, high and rising unemployment and poverty levels and a general loss of confidence but most citizens in most of their public authorities;

— the tendency for governments and individuals to speak a pan-Arab language but to act only in their own narrow self-interest;

— the penchant for embarrassing, severe and totally untenable double-dependence — with citizens relying heavily on their governments for survival and development and governments, in turn, relying heavily on foreign governments for the money, food, arms and political patronage required for survival and development;

— the absolute control of Arab/Islamic creative and intellectual forces by the state, leaving the Arab society in a state of severe cultural retardation at any level higher than old ladies weaving rugs and small children drawing pictures of Israeli F-15s;

— the wholesale transformation of official and private Arab news media into purveyors of half-truths, discredited clichés, fantasy, hero-worship and diversionary entertainment that is as crass in its political purpose as it is destructive in its cultural inappropriateness;

— the synthesis of traditional social-political tribalism and institutional and developmental modernism into a peculiar Arab system that is essentially a mercantile form of soft oriental authoritarianism.

"The process of change will be messy in some cases because the pent-up tensions, the structural economic distortions and the extent of human abuse and denial have been too severe, in most cases, to be brushed aside as mere historical footnotes. The cumulative damage of the last 70 years will require several generations to be undone. It will not be easy providing jobs for all Algerians and Egyptians in the late 1990s, or providing water for all Jordanians and Palestinians or sufficient food for all Sudanese and Yemenis. But these goals can be achieved if Arabs reject the failures of their recent past and work hard on the basis of their substantial assets and talents."

— the temporary triumph of materialism over human values, to the extent that right here in Jordan, for example, the amount of money, effort and human creativity expended on promoting Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola has been far greater and more impressive than any efforts by the public and private sectors to educate the public on such matters as the upcoming elections or the implications of the peace talks with Israel.

All these forces have already been challenged by ordinary people in every single Arab/Islamic Middle Eastern country, in one way or another, during the last decade and a half, starting with the overthrow of the Shah in 1979. The end of the Arab-Israeli conflict would push Arabs to address all these issues in a more forceful and speedy manner — in what may be seen historically as a delayed quest for the sort of viable and stable statehood that the Arabs were denied in the 1920s and beyond.

Yet, the process of change will be messy in some cases because the pent-up tensions, the structural economic distortions and the extent of human abuse and denial have been too severe, in most cases, to be brushed aside as mere historical footnotes. The cumulative damage of the last 70 years will require several generations to be undone. It will not be easy providing jobs for all Algerians and Egyptians in the late 1990s, or providing water for all Jordanians and Palestinians or sufficient food for all Sudanese

and Yemenis — just as it has not been easy providing basic human needs for all in the Soviet bloc countries in the last three years. But these goals can be achieved if Arabs reject the failures of their recent past and work hard on the basis of their substantial assets and talents.

The Middle East will have to deal with a whole series of ethnic and identity issues that have been frozen in time since 1920, but that have already shown their potential for discord in places such as Somalia, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and elsewhere. Some of these identity issues will cause the break-up of a few ridiculous Arab states and the amalgamation of others. The state system that was imposed on the Arabs by European colonial powers in 1920 will end up being reconfigured here and there by the people of this region so that it responds to their needs and rights rather than to the needs and rights of distant wholesalers who trade in sugar, oil and entire southern cultures. The new Arab order that will emerge in a few decades will result in some different states, along with transformed domestic power relationships and more realistic systems of pan-Arab cooperation and integration.

The expansion of democratic and pluralistic forces will probably lead to increasingly pragmatic and rational policies by states that enjoy good education levels and that do not suffer severe economic, ideological or demographic distress (such as Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Bahrain, etc.). In states under stress, marginalised or frightened groups are likely to turn to violence or to desperate separatism to protect themselves — only to realise in time that marginalised and minority groups in the Middle East have only found protection in this region during the last, oh, five thousand years of history by living in pluralistic integration with the majority culture or religion rather than by seeking the false shelter of guns, isolation, or foreign emperors.

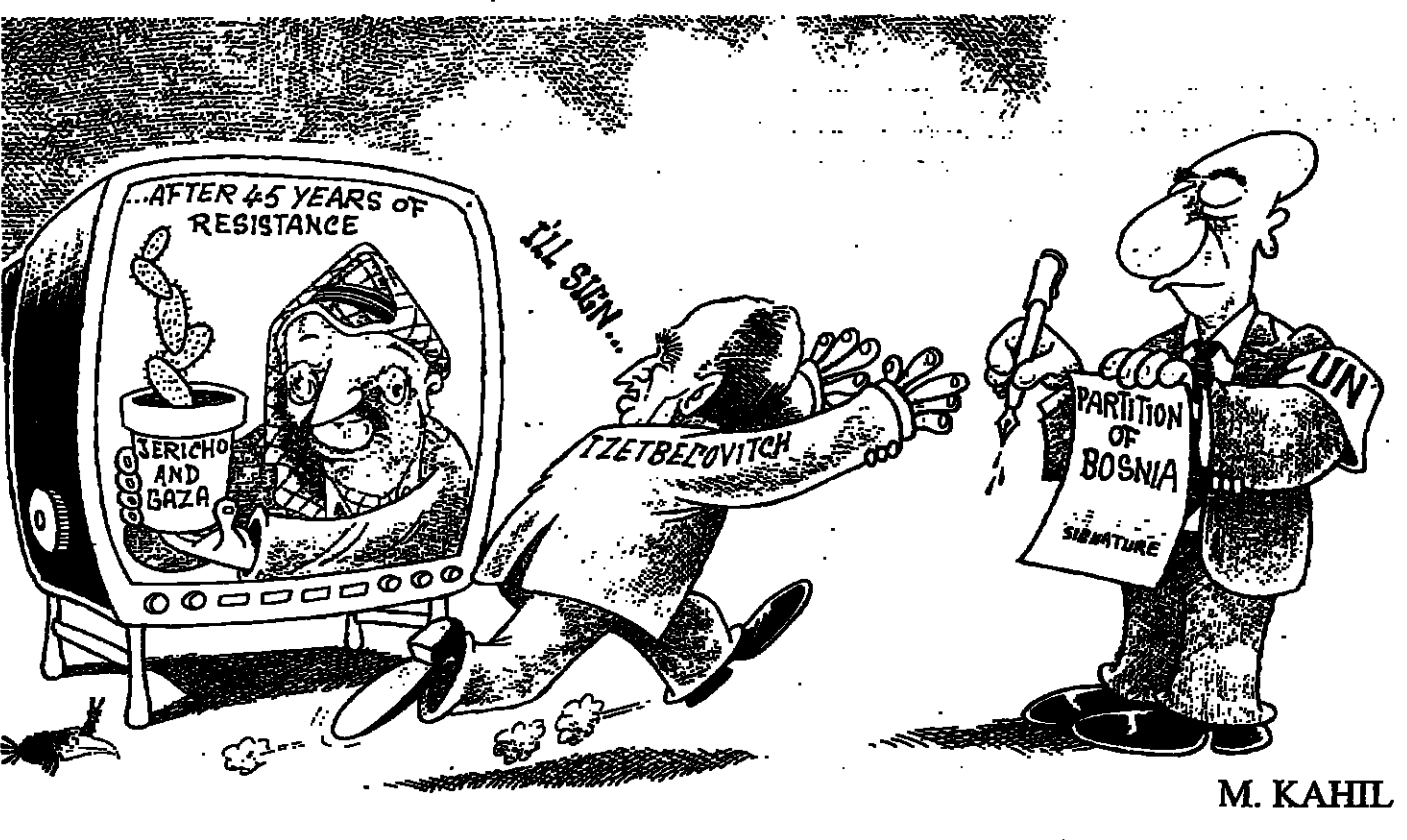
Like is happening in the former Soviet bloc, the main struggle in the Middle East in a post-peace era will be between two forces: those who can patiently build a new order based on pluralism, participation, accountability, economic productivity, intellectual vitality and regional integration, and those who will panic and seek solace in the familiar old ways of guns, authoritarianism, patriarchy and fear.

Probably the three most important forces to watch will be the pace and vitality of democratic pluralism, the extent to which Islamic sentiments are accommodated in such a transformation and the ability of the Middle East to shift from economic irresponsibility to balanced and sustainable economic growth.

If these three things happen, I believe the transition from the past to the future will happen relatively smoothly. As, for example, it has been happening here in Jordan or in Oman and Yemen. But if economic stress is too severe and political wisdom is in short supply, our transformation after peace is achieved with Israel will make post-Ceausescu Romania look like a mild family quarrel.

In either case, the process of change is under way: we should welcome it, because the prospect of continuing the policies and the legacy of the recent past would be a catastrophe for the Arab/Islamic World. Let us watch, also around the world to see if those who have welcomed and supported the changed map and mindset of the former Soviet bloc countries also take a positive attitude to the changes that the Arab/Islamic people have sought for so long, that we need so urgently and that we deserve so badly.

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Parallels to earlier jungles

By Jeanne Kirkpatrick

NEW YORK — Is it impossible for people to learn from the experience of others, for one generation to learn from the leaders of the western world forgotten the famous lessons of the century — of Munich and of Vietnam?

There are no perfect historical analogies. But personality types and behaviour patterns recur, and this makes the lessons of one period relevant and useful to the problems of the next — as the experience of Munich relates to Bosnia, for example.

The deal cut by Britain and France at Munich on Sept. 28, 1938, and forced by them on a reluctant Czechoslovakia, which led directly to Hitler's further aggression, is not exactly like the deal worked out by Lord David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg and urged on unwilling Bosnians. Serbia is not Germany, and Slovenian Milosevic lacks some of the political skills of Adolf Hitler.

Still these events have much in common. At Munich, western powers formally accepted the dismemberment of a Central European state and offered international guarantees even as they urged on Czechoslovakia surrender of territory and defensibility. The deal was done by honorable, well-intentioned men. They longed to preserve a semblance of peace and believed that territorial concessions would appease the expansionist, nationalist Nazi government, whose leader was notable for extremism, chauvinism, religious intolerance and violence.

The French news magazine Le Point recently noted the similarity between Nazi and Serbian governments and leaders and wrote that Mr. Milosevic has, by his record of rapes, murders, torture and mass deportations "earned a place for himself among the great villains of the century — Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin." He is also, it notes, the big winner in Yugoslavia's civil war.

Western diplomats again are ready to recognise borders changed by force and to coerce victims of aggression into accepting their country's dismemberment. Again the western negotiators offer guarantees that the new borders will be respected more than the old.

Will the appeasement of Mr. Milosevic prove not only dishonourable, but as unsuccessful as Munich in pacifying a Central European nationalist the world finds difficult to take seriously? Will western guarantees of indefensible Bosnian borders prove no more reliable than western guarantees of defence of a truncated Czechoslovakia? Yes.

Will the experience of appeasement demoralise France, Britain, the European Community and NATO as surrender to Hitler's demands demoralised western governments in 1938 and 1939? Will it undermine their credibility and encourage further aggression? Yes.

Respect for the lessons of Munich and understanding of the folly of appeasement guided U.S. leaders from Harry Truman through George Bush. Does Bill

Clinton, a man of a different generation, understand Munich's lessons? What would he do if he desired to act on the basis of those lessons? Certain things are clear.

We should not speak or act as if neutral between aggressors and victims of aggression. We should not acquiesce in the acquisition of territory by force, or reward "ethnic cleansing" or enforce boundaries established by "ethnic cleansing" and force.

We should use U.S. or NATO air power — whichever seems more feasible — and, acting under Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, break the sieges and end the devastation imposed on Muslims by Serbian forces. We should block the flow of weapons, ammunition, fuel and foodstuffs from Serbia into Bosnia.

We should not send thousands of U.S. ground troops to enforce an unjust settlement. Such open-ended deployment of forces in an enterprise with ambiguous goals, and which is opposed by the indigenous population, is extremely imprudent.

That brings me to the second great learning experience for the United States in this century. Vietnam. Mr. Clinton's commitment of U.S. troops to Somalia raises serious questions about whether he has studied the lessons of his generation's war.

The Vietnam war — like America's new commitment in Somalia — was born of honourable motives and dedicated to serving principles of nonaggression.

But before it was over, Americans had learned that it was a terrible mistake to try to remake a culturally and geographically remote country, to rid it of a disliked leader to install a different one. And before that long, frustrating war had ended, the American military had learned that minimum force and proportionate response do not work and cannot win at what, for Americans, are acceptable costs. The clearest lesson of Vietnam was that decisive force should be present in any future conflict to which American troops are committed.

Somalia is not Vietnam. There is no outside power ready to provide a flow of arms and ammunition. But nation-building in an unfamiliar society is still an impossible task. And a quagmire is still a dangerous place.

Arnold Toynbee wrote that the tragedy of Neville Chamberlain and his colleagues was that "it fell to them to act, in positions of high responsibility, in a jungle world that was irreconcilable with the civilised world in which they had been brought up. They were in their element in domestic social reform. ... They were horrified by the brutal world which had now suddenly and unexpectedly closed in round them."

Being a nice man committed to domestic social reform is no guarantee of success in international politics. President Clinton should be very careful or he will flunk the test on the lessons of history — Los Angeles Times.

Kuwait closes all human rights organisations

On Aug. 6, the Kuwaiti government ordered the dissolution of all unlicensed organisations. Especially targeted were groups following the fate of Kuwaitis disappeared during the Iraqi occupation and believed held in Iraq, as well as human rights groups, including the Kuwaiti Association to Defend War Victims (KADWV), Kuwait's main human rights organisation. Despite loud protests in Kuwait, the government has reaffirmed its intention to implement the ban by use of force if necessary. Under a 1988 law adopted without parliamentary approval, the ban is final and not subject to judicial review.

The closure is a clear violation of the universally recognised right of free peaceful association, a principle enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Denial of an opportunity to appeal the ban before the courts is a violation of the right to due process of law.

"The closure is a clear violation of the universally recognised right of free peaceful association, a principle enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights."

The ban violates a National Assembly resolution adopted last December to legalise and support private organisations working on the issue of the disappeared — a resolution which the government last February agreed to implement.

Most immediately affected by the closure are families of the disappeared Kuwaitis. So are victims of human rights abuses committed since the liberation of Kuwait in February 1991, including families of those killed or disappeared and prisoners tortured and mistreated. Detainees in Kuwaiti prisons will also be affected. Women, bedouins and naturalised citizens — all disenfranchised by Kuwaiti law — will also lose their main advocates. The decision is a serious reversal of the significant steps that Kuwait has taken towards restoration of democracy since its liberation.

Despite repeated denials by government officials, it is evident that the closure was intended to preserve the government's monopoly over human rights and humanitarian efforts. Private organisations have succeeded in upstaging official bodies in dealing with the issue of disappeared Kuwaitis. They have also regular-

ly pressed the government and the National Assembly to address specific human rights issues, including prison conditions, discrimination against the bedouins and the denial of political rights to women and naturalised citizens. They also provided humanitarian assistance and legal advice to security and political prisoners.

Although the parliament as a whole has not taken a position on the closure, its committee on the disappeared has rejected the cabinet's decision and on Aug. 17 resigned in protest.

The closure puts an end to the pioneering work that Kuwaiti human rights advocates have played in the region. It brings Kuwait in line with its more authoritarian neighbours, all of whom ban human rights activity.

Recommendations

Middle East Watch calls on the Kuwaiti government to reverse its decision banning all unlicensed private associations. In particular, the following human rights

and humanitarian organisations should be permitted to operate unimpeded:

— Kuwaiti Association to Defend War Victims,

— League of Families of PoWs and the Missing,

— Mutual Assistance Fund for the Families of the Martyrs and PoWs,

— Popular Committee for Solidarity with PoWs, and

— Pro-Democracy Committee.

We urge the Kuwaiti government to amend the Law of Public Interest Associations, to permit peaceful associations to function unhindered. The law should also be amended so that restrictions on the activities of associations are subject to judicial review.

The 1985 moratorium on the formation of new associations should also be lifted immediately.

Middle East Watch calls on the U.S. government, which enjoys the enormous respect and good will in Kuwait, to take a public stand urging the Kuwaiti government to permit the unhindered operation of peaceful associations and to rescind its order to close down human rights and humanitarian organisations — Middle East Watch.

Jordan pledges all help to implement accord

(Continued from page 1)

Hussein that Jordanian-Palestinian relations went beyond coordination, and he called for unity between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples in line with Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions based on the free choice of both peoples.

"I am committed to confederation, because this is our political programme and I had been elected by our PNC according to this programme based on clear PNC resolutions confirming confederal relations between Jordan and Palestine according to the free choice of the two peoples," Mr. Arafat said. "However, the issue of confederation has not been discussed during this meeting with King Hussein."

He said steps leading to confederation have to be discussed with King Hussein gradually "because during this very short period we have to stress upon how to coordinate better to face the implementation of the (PLO-Israeli) agreement on the ground."

He said that the first step necessitates close Jordanian-Palestinian coordination to jointly face difficulties arising from the implementation of the accord, and the second step would be the unity of the two peoples in a confederation.

King Hussein has said that confederation would be possible after Palestinians regain their complete freedom and are able to exercise free choice. Both Jordanians and Palestinians have to be consulted on the issue, he said.

PLO officials said neither Jordan nor the PLO contemplate confederation at this stage. "Palestinian-Jordanian relations are distinguished. What is between us is not mere coordination, but unity at the highest levels, and our discussions with King Hussein were in the context of this future vision of relations," Mr. Arafat said.

He was irritated by a journalist's question on the Palestinian vision of Jordan's role after the PLO-Israeli accord was concluded, and whether the PLO would take steps to disengage the Palestinian economy from that of Israel towards Jordan's. The question was seen as a reflection of Jordanians' concern that Palestinians would end up confederating with Israel rather than with Jordan, leaving Jordan's economy vulnerable to variations on the other side of the Jordan River.

Mr. Arafat blasted at the reporter in anger saying the question was "loaded". "How can we disengage? Our people is under occupation; our petrol, our electricity and telephones are from the Israelis. No doubt we will take steps, within our capability, to get rid of them. I would do it now, even before self-determination. If it was within our means to administer our own affairs, we would have done so," he said. "But we are compe-

led to need them in every field, including our wheat and our taxes. It is an occupation economy with all the cruelty of occupation. Or do you think we are taking a picnic under occupation?"

Addressing the two most thorny issues which are a source of concern for Jordan, the PLO and countries hosting Palestinian refugees, Mr. Arafat said the crucial issues of Palestinians displaced in the 1967 war and Palestinian refugees from the 1948 war were discussed with King Hussein and that a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli-Egyptian committee would be set up to discuss the arrangements for the return of displaced persons who were forced out from their homes during the 1967 war.

"These would return during the interim period," he said, refusing to provide exact figures of displaced persons who would be allowed to return.

He said the figures would be determined after discussions with Jordan and Egypt, hosts of the displaced Palestinians.

Jordan hosts the largest number of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons. Jordanian officials said there are around 1.8 million, of whom 1.1 million are 1948 refugees while the rest are displaced. Jordan intends to ask for state compensation for hosting refugees since 1948.

Another committee would be set up to discuss the fate of Palestinian refugees who fled their homes during the 1948 war.

"The fate of old Palestinian refugees like myself would be discussed in a period not exceeding the beginning of the third year of the five-year interim period," Mr. Arafat said. He also said the thorny issues of the final status of Jerusalem, Jewish settlements and borders and security would also be discussed at the start of the third year.

"Jerusalem would be dealt with in the interim period and in the final status negotiations," the PLO leader said. He said that Palestinians of East Jerusalem would have the right to participate in the elections for the interim self-government, and the status of the Holy City would be determined in permanent status negotiations.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin admitted that he faced a problem on the issue of Jerusalem. If it is a red line for him, it is four times a red line for me... it is a red line for a Palestinian perspective, from the Arab side, from the Islamic side and from the Christian side," Mr. Arafat said.

Denying that there were "secret annexes" to the PLO-Israel accord, Mr. Arafat said that some Arab and Palestinian parties "had fabricated false secret annexes... we are not ashamed of the agreement we signed which was disengagement of Israeli

army forces from Gaza and Jericho first and interim self-government in the rest of the occupied territories."

Mr. Arafat said he expected to go to Gaza and Jericho by the end of this year or the beginning of next year, when Israeli forces withdraw from these two areas.

PLO officials said a provisional council or committee would be set up in Jericho and Gaza, headed by Mr. Arafat and other PLO officials, in addition to residents of the occupied territories.

"Intensive Israel-PLO negotiations will start after Oct. 13 to agree on details of implementing the accord. Since implementation would take two months, I expect to arrive in Jericho and Gaza Strip at the start of next year," Mr. Arafat said.

The PLO leader confirmed that he had asked Israel for the release of the founder of the rival Hamas movement, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, whom he described as "a struggler and I am proud to work for his release."

"I have asked Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to bring this issue up with Rabin, and President Mubarak informed me this morning that he conveyed my request," Mr. Arafat said.

Assad says accord no Arab gain

(Continued from page 1)

It was ultimately "up to the Palestinian people to decide" and that was why Syria had not formally "approved nor rejected" the agreement, he said.

Mr. Assad said he could do nothing to avert the risk of fighting between backers of the deal and its opponents, such as the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

"The possibility that problems will occur between is a real one. The subject is not as simple as Arafat makes out," he said.

Mr. Assad disparaged Arafat, comparing him unfavourably to the Arab World's other peacemaker with Israel, Egypt's late President Anwar Sadat, and saying Syria had made a concession even by receiving him in Damascus after the agreement.

"Arafat says he thanked me for my advice. I told him only to unite the people, unite the citizens so that there will not be massacres. I told him we will not stand in the way, and for that he thanked me three times," Mr. Assad said.

"I do not know that they (the PLO and Israel) have agreed on. Every point in the agreement needs its own agreement," he added.

The Syrian president said his country would remain committed to peace negotiations started in Madrid in 1991 and did not consider the PLO's deal with Israel a threat. "If we wanted to oppose the agreement, we could have made it fail."

He avoided the question of whether Syria was likely to sign an agreement with Israel in the next few months, as both Cairo and Washington have predicted.

"What we see at the moment does not suggest that. Perhaps there were some indications before these days, and some people attribute this to the situation in Israel and the relations between the opposition and the government."

"But as I said, considering we are enemies it is natural that we must be cautious," he said.

Mr. Assad's office said he interviewed Mr. Assad in Damascus on Thursday.

Mr. Assad confirmed that Syria will continue negotiations with Israel. "Nobody said he doesn't want to continue, and we did not say that (negotiating) will not continue," he said.

But he said Mr. Arafat fell into an Israeli trap with the agreement to negotiate, whereby the PLO quickly takes autonomous control of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area.

"Israel as everybody knows is not comfortable in Gaza. It faces great difficulties there," Mr. Assad said. "Israel has an interest that Arabs participate in bearing the difficulties that it carries, and the (PLO-Israeli) agreement achieves that goal for it."

The Syrian president also reiterated that Israel would have to withdraw from the Golan Heights seized in 1967 if it wanted peace with Syria.

"Syria will never accept peace as Israel wants it — having territory and peace at the same time," he said.

Despite his reservations, Mr. Assad said: "The chances for peace have improved over what they were before, because of the current international climate and the increase in the number of people who want peace, even in Israel."

Rabin wants Arab backing

In Alexandria, Egypt, Mr. Rabin told Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Syria was flouting its peace talks with Israel by supporting guerrillas in Lebanon and Damascus-based groups opposed to the Israeli-PLO accord.

A senior official travelling with Mr. Rabin in Egypt Sunday said

However, Mr. Arafat denied there was an agreement between the Hamas and Fatah leadership on a code of honour banning inter-Palestinian violence.

He said the agreement was between Hamas and Fatah prisoners in Israeli "concentration camps" in the occupied territories. The accord was sent to the PLO's headquarters in Tunis and "I respected and approved that agreement," Mr. Arafat said.

He also said that he was still extending an invitation to Hamas to open a dialogue with Fatah, the PLO's mainstream faction, in Yemen.

He said Hamas has responded to his appeal for an urgent meeting in Yemen.

In Egypt, Mr. Arafat met with leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood to enlist their help in thwarting violence by Hamas against the PLO's peace deal with Israel. Despite its opposition to the accord signed last week, the Brotherhood has appealed to Hamas to refrain from violence.

The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan sharply criticised and opposed the accord, but it did not follow the Egyptian movement's steps in calling on Hamas to avert the use of violence.

Politicians send conflicting signals over elections

(Continued from page 1)

political realities as a fragmented country," Mr. Obaidat maintains. He insists that the three branches of government should be operational at all times but believes the country can live with the delay. "Postponing the elections does not mean that the democratisation process has stopped."

Mr. Dudin, on the other hand, argues that delaying the polls will have a destabilising effect on the country, causing both economic and social instability. "Why should we continue to destabilise our country?" he asks, adding that holding the elections on time would give a sense of stability to the financial and economic sectors.

"We should have faith in our people who are enlightened enough to handle any debate. We should respect their will and their judgement," says Mr. Mansour.

"Under no circumstances should Jordan be without a parliament," says a former cabinet member who believes that the elections should be held on time. But if the final decision is to postpone the elections, at least the old parliament should be recalled, says the ex-minister, who asked not to be identified by name.

The Constitution entitles the King to postpone elections and reconvene the previous Parliament.

Legal experts are divided over their interpretation of constitutional provisions on whether Parliament would automatically reconvene if elections are postponed.

"With political parties that return to the 1972 idea of a united Arab Kingdom, which many in the PLO believed was Jordan's favoured option," the official said.

Statements by both sides clearly indicate that neither side had in fact thoroughly studied the implications of any Israeli-Palestinian accord on the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

The two sides, according to Jordanian and Palestinian sources, had rarely discussed aspects of the status of Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

As a result, both parties, including those who were directly involved in the secret Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, were caught off guard when the Oslo agreement was reached.

His Majesty King Hussein has been trying to contain any damage that the accord might cause to the cohesion of the Jordanian society, by repeatedly and firmly warning against threats to national unity between Jordanians and Palestinians in the Kingdom.

For his part, Mr. Arafat has made many statements in appreciation of Jordan's stand and reiterated commitment to a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

These statements were viewed as a good beginning, but as long as there was no agreement on a joint vision for the future and a common strategy, there would always be the danger that external forces might come to fill the gaps, the officials and analysts say.

In fact, the accord, which includes provisions that to a certain extent define forms and areas of Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli coordination, is only reinforcing mutual concerns that Jordan and the PLO could no longer postpone the urgent need to work together from now on, the officials say.

From the Palestinian viewpoint, including that of the opponents of the accord, without an adequate and clear agreement with Jordan, the agreement could be turned into an instrument to subordinate both Jordan and the PLO to Israeli interests and demands.

"This is a recipe for undermining prospects for Palestinian sovereignty and which could pose a serious threat to Jordan's national unity and stability," a prominent Palestinian, who is opposed to the accord, said.

have not completely matured and a press that is not capable of playing its role in a democracy, you need a parliament to check the acts of government on issues of major importance to the future of the country," says the former minister.

He said Parliament should be in session "to check the acts of the government, the weak link in our democratisation process."

"You cannot tailor democracy to avoid discussion of certain issues," the ex-minister says in countering arguments that PLO-Israeli deal will dominate the elections.

Al Ahd's Majali agrees on this. He says avoiding the debate should not be the reason for delaying the polls. "The polls should be put off because of demographic factors and possible social divisions among

those who oppose the PLO's deal with Israel and those who support it. The elections should be postponed until the dust of the accord has raised settlements and the crucial questions it brought about are answered," Mr. Majali maintains.

The major point of agreement among supporters and opponents of postponing the elections is that Jordan should not be without a parliament.

"You cannot have a constitutional vacuum," says the former minister, drawing the instant support of Mr. Obaidat and Dr. Hamarneh, who both want the elections postponed.

"Postponing the elections should be conditional on recalling the previous parliament," insists Dr. Hamarneh. "Democracy is not one single model to emulate. In these extraordinary times, you need extraordinary measures."

And 21 members of the Arab League approved the statement except Iraq, which has opposed the accord all along. Libya, also bitterly opposed, surprisingly voted with the majority.

In Baghdad, the official Iraqi daily Al Thawra called for a change in the PLO leadership, echoing the position of several Palestinian groups.

Al Thawra urged "principled, energetic and revolutionary action in favour of Palestine and Palestinians."

"The current leadership, which is overseeing the accord, must not lead the Palestinian struggle for a real and total liberation of Palestine," the newspaper said.

The call marked the first time Baghdad has cast doubt on Mr. Arafat's leadership of the PLO.

After withdrawal, the statement said, "we will open a new page in Middle East history, and the people of the region will be able to work towards development and improvement."

porters to wave black flags of mourning to express their grief at PLO leader Yasser Arafat's "sell-out" of Palestine to the Israelis.

The result is a veritable forest of drapery greeting the eyes of visitors to the occupied territories.

The Palestinian flags dominate: They are everywhere. The black flag of mourning is rarer, but still abundant in the refugee camps of the squalid Gaza Strip, a breeding ground for Hamas militants.

Flag manufacturers, not surprisingly, are doing rather well for themselves. Sakher Ali Izza, an Arab salesman for an Israeli flag workshop, says he has sold more than 5,000 Palestinian flags in the Bethlehem area alone.

Nabil Al Haruf says prospects are good. "Demand will be even greater on November 15, the fifth anniversary of the Palestinian declaration of independence."

But the real test of the flagmakers' real output is still to come: When Yasser Arafat makes his triumphant return to Jericho, which he plans on doing "within the next nine weeks," demand will sky-

rocket.

Meanwhile, the battle between flagwavers is heating up, although to date most exchanges between wavers of the Palestinian flag and the Hamas-inspired funeral flag have been verbal rather than physical.

But it is prompting a shift of attitudes. All patriotic Palestinians, whether aligned to Mr. Arafat's faction of the PLO or to the "rejectionist front" recognise the black, red, green and white banner as the flag of Palestine.

But ever since supporters of the deal have started waving them, the hardliners are reluctant to do so themselves.

"When that flag was banned, we waved it with pride. But now it doesn't really stand for anything," said an activist from the south of the West Bank.

Meanwhile Palestinians favouring the deal can wave the flag with impunity. It even flies alongside the Israeli flag at a service station on the border of the Gaza Strip.

Arafat's visit is crucial

(Continued from page 1)

return to the 1972 idea of a united Arab Kingdom, which many in the PLO believed was Jordan's favoured option," the official said.

Statements by both sides clearly indicate that neither side had in fact thoroughly studied the implications of any Israeli-Palestinian accord on the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

The two sides, according to Jordanian and Palestinian sources, had rarely discussed aspects of the status of Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

As a result, both parties, including those who were directly involved in the secret Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, were caught off guard when the Oslo agreement was reached.

His Majesty King Hussein has been trying to contain any damage that the accord might cause to the cohesion of the Jordanian society, by repeatedly and firmly warning against threats to national unity between Jordanians and Palestinians in the Kingdom.

For his part, Mr. Arafat has made many statements in appreciation of Jordan's stand and reiterated commitment to a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

These statements were viewed as a good beginning, but as long as there was no agreement on a joint vision for the future and a common strategy, there would always be the danger that external forces might come to fill the gaps, the officials and analysts say.

In fact, the accord, which includes provisions that to a certain extent define forms and areas of Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli coordination, is only reinforcing mutual concerns that Jordan and the PLO could no longer postpone the urgent need to work together from now on, the officials say.

From the Palestinian viewpoint, including that of the opponents of the accord, without an adequate and clear agreement with Jordan, the agreement could be turned into an instrument to subordinate both Jordan and the PLO to Israeli interests and demands.

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Arabs back Israel-PLO deal

(Continued from page 1)

the wording of the statement was the fruit of a compromise between the PLO, Tunisia, Egypt and Morocco on the one hand and Syria, Lebanon, Libya and Iraq on the other.

Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid said the communique was endorsed unanimously, although Iraq, which has criticised the agreement along with Libya and Sudan, had expressed reservations.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said the accord "will face many problems and difficulties simply because it ignores the fate of more than half of the Palestinians, namely the refugees dispersed across the

world."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said the support received by the Arab League was "sufficient" although the PLO had hoped to obtain full backing.

Read by Secretary-General Abdul Meguid, the Arab League statement said "comprehensive, just and lasting" peace is achievable only by Israeli withdrawal from East Jerusalem and the rest of occupied Arab territory. The Jewish state contends the eastern part of the Holy City is an "indivisible" part of its "eternal capital."

After withdrawal, the statement said, "we will open a new page in Middle East history, and the people of the region will be able to work towards development and improvement."

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PLO seeks to regroup PLA

(Continued from page 1)

3,000-strong Badr Forces already in the Kingdom undergoing police training, the source told the Jordan Times.

"We are not sure yet how Iraq and Libya will react to the move," said the source, referring to the two countries' rejection of the landmark agreement reached between Israel and the PLO.

Syria had not responded to a PLO request that the PLA force stationed in its territory be moved, the source said.

A report in the local press said Nasri Yousef, a member of the Central Committee of Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction, visited Baghdad early this month and met with officers of the PLA brigade in Iraq.

The report quoted Mr. Yousef as telling the officers that they had the choice to settle down in Iraq or leave and join the police force. The PLO will help those who opt to remain in Iraq to settle down, he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Yousef sought to meet high-level Iraqi officials but could meet only a lieutenant in the army, the report said. It quoted the Iraqi officer as saying that Iraq was not ready to train the PLA soldiers as policemen since it did not support the autonomy agreement and that the PLO was free to transfer the PLA brigade from Iraq.

According to the PLO source, the Tunis headquarters of the PLO is now paying the salaries of all PLA units except those stationed in Libya.

Jordan was paying the Badr Brigade in the Kingdom until its decision in July 1988 to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank.

The PLO source said it costs up to JD 600,000 every month for the upkeep of the Badr Brigade.

Under the Israel-PLO autonomy accord, Israel will withdraw from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank towns of Jericho in four to six months, clearing the way for a Palestinian self-rule authority to take over administrative control of the area.

The rest of the West Bank will remain under Israeli control but will have limited autonomous powers pending the outcome of final status negotiations scheduled to begin no later than the third year of autonomy.

With Egyptian and an expected Jordanian agreement to the transfer of the PLA units to their territories, the PLO expects to complete the process in about six weeks time.

"The PLA brigade in Yemen will remain there for the time being," said the PLO source. "They have also started training courses, and it is expected that they would have acquired practical police skills in about five weeks' time."

The PLA units, all professional soldiers trained by the armed forces of their host countries, are all expected to be transformed into the proposed Palestinian police force which will be formally known as the "Palestinian Central Security Force" and entrusted with keeping law and order in the occupied territories.

The Israel-PLO accord has deeply divided the Palestinian community, and several Palestinian groups have launched a fierce campaign to preempt its implementation. However, every group has taken pains to state that their moves do not include "violent acts" pitting Palestinians against Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian police force will include several thousand residents of the occupied territories. Less than 200 of them are undergoing training in Egypt.

Members of the Badr Brigade started police training at Amman's Police Academy early this month. They are acquiring skills in crowd and riot control, anti-terrorist measures, forensic medicine and crime investigation.

The headquarters of the PLA in Amman is accepting applications from Palestinians to join the police force. A large crowd of unemployed young Palestinian youths could be spotted everyday outside the PLA offices in Jabal Hussein.



JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD

ANNOUNCES THE INVITATION TO TENDER NO. 33F/93
JPMC announces the invitation to tender No. 33F/93
(for the supply of 250 tons of open cast gelatine)

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Saturday 16.10.1993, application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD (35) for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submitting tenders is 12:00 hours local time Wednesday October 20, 1993.

Jordan Phosphate Mines Co., Ltd.

In Alexandria, Egypt, Mr. Rabin told Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Syria was flouting its peace talks with Israel by supporting guerrillas in Lebanon and Damascus-based groups opposed to the Israeli-PLO accord.

A senior official travelling with Mr. Rabin in Egypt Sunday said

CENTRO CULTURAL ESPANOL

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Announces

The beginning of a three-month fall course of Spanish language.

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IMF to contribute to poor nations fund, seek more money

WASHINGTON (R) — The IMF is ready to chip in about \$750 million of its own money to a \$10 billion fund for the world's poor and will be looking to rich nations and others for the rest, a senior IMF official said Sunday.

The official, who declined to be identified, told reporters that IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus will be working hard to raise the money that's needed during the International Monetary Fund (IMF) World Bank annual meeting that starts this week.

Known as the enhanced structural adjustment facility (ESAF), the aid fund provides long-term loans at a half per cent interest rate to the world's poor nations. It is due to expire at the end of November unless renewed.

"It's my hope to... have a new ESAF in place by the end of this year," the senior IMF official said.

The ESAF consists of two parts: a \$7 billion capital account from which the loans to the world's poorest nations are extended and a \$3 billion subsidy account which subsidises the credits and allows them to be made at virtually no interest.

The IMF will be kicking in somewhere between about \$700 million to \$850 million to the latter, the official said.

He said that several industrial countries have stressed the "tremendous difficulties" they face in contributing to the fund because of the "budget agony" they're going through.

But many of the more well-off

developing nations have expressed an interest in contributing to a fund to help the poorest of the poor, he said.

That's just another sign of the increasing importance in the world economy of the developing countries — many of whom are enjoying faster economic growth than industrial nations.

The IMF expects the economies of developing nations to grow an average 6.1 per cent this year. That compares with the 1.1 per cent growth rate it's forecast for the industrial world.

"It shows where the locomotives (for growth) now are," the senior IMF official said.

This will be the fourth straight year in which developing countries increase their imports by between nine and 10 per cent — a plus for the world economy, he said.

Poland will have the highest rate of economic growth in Europe this year, about four per cent, and will effectively be acting as a "locomotive" for the economies of that region.

This economic "globalisation" — in which developing countries are playing a bigger role in the world economy as some production shifts there from industrial nations — is becoming increasingly important and must be watched, he said.

"Something very important is developing," the IMF official added. "Globalisation... is playing a formidable role with its positive aspects and its risks."

To cope with that, world economic policymakers must "share" their efforts to cooperate more closely, he said.

Oman pressing ahead with bank reforms

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Oman is pressing ahead with reforms of its banks to boost their capital base and bring them in line with international standards, its central bank chief was quoted Monday as saying.

Hamud bin Sangur said the central bank had given the country's 22 commercial banks until the end of October to raise their capital to meet adequacy levels set by the Bank of International Settlement (BIS).

The decision stipulated national banks raise their capital to at least 10 million Omani riyals (\$26 million) and foreign units to at least three million riyals (\$7.8 million), he was quoted as saying by the United Arab Emirates Al Bayan newspaper.

The deadline has prompted two main banks, the Muscat Bank and Al Ahli Bank, to merge while two others, the Omani Commercial Bank and Al Masraf Al Omani, have agreed to follow suit, according to bankers in Oman.

"The central bank still encourages banks to merge in order to create large and strong banking units capable of providing better services and facing any risks in banking operations," Mr. Sangur said.

He said the central bank had announced a set of incentives for merging units, including placing a deposit for five years at a low interest rate of three per cent.

Bank of Japan said poised to cut key rate

TOKYO (R) — The Bank of Japan (BOJ) is poised to cut its official discount rate Tuesday from 2.5 per cent, already a historic low, to 2.0 per cent, NHK public television said Monday.

Financial markets have been expecting the BOJ to cut the key lending rate soon to help boost Japan's sluggish economy, which analysts say is in danger of contracting in the current fiscal year to March for the first time in almost two decades.

A BOJ official told Reuters the bank was still discussing whether to cut the rate it charges to private banks.

The central bank has cut the official discount rate six times since July 1991, when the current round of monetary easing began. The BOJ last cut the key rate on Feb. 4.

Some market players have been hoping the central bank would cut the discount rate by 75 basis points this time, but many economists said the central bank was unlikely to be so bold.

The dollar opened firmer against the yen after the NHK report and following a comment by a senior International Monetary Fund official in Washington that a Japanese rate cut could help slow the yen's appreciation. The dollar opened at 104.73 yen after closing at 104.48 yen New York Friday.

The yen has surged nearly 20 per cent this year, largely because of Japan's growing current account and trade surpluses, swollen by the nation's stagnant economy which has dampened import and by the initial impact of the yen's rise, which inflates

the dollar value of exports.

News of the BOJ's expected move followed the government's announcement last Thursday of a six trillion yen (\$57 billion) government economic package to stimulate the economy.

The package focused more on ways to cut through government red tape that critics say is dampening entrepreneurial spirit and throttling competition and on ways to pass the benefits of the strong yen to consumers than on traditional public works spending to prime the economic pump.

Businessmen were disappointed with the package, mainly because it did not contain the hefty income tax cuts they are seeking to bolster stagnant consumer demand.

The package instead called on the government's tax panel, sched-

uled to submit recommendations by mid-April, to discuss overall tax reform including income tax cuts.

The coalition government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is under heavy domestic and foreign pressure to take more bold measures to ensure a long-delayed recovery occurs.

Washington wants Japan to gear up its economy to suck in more imports and trim its bulging trade surplus.

Mr. Hosokawa could well be urged to do more on the economic front when he meets U.S. President Bill Clinton late this month in New York, the first meeting between the two since Mr. Hosokawa's coalition replaced the long-dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in August.

Kuwait getting over cash crisis

KUWAIT (Agencies) — More than \$7.5 billion worth of capital has left Kuwait in the two years since the Gulf war, provoking a cash crisis in the oil-rich emirate, the Kuwaiti Central Bank (KCB) — governor has said.

The central bank has had to intervene to prevent the collapse of local banks crippled by the capital outflow, he added.

Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Saud Al Sabah told the official Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) that part of the capital transfer was payment for equipment imported in 1991 and 1992 to help reconstruct the country after the January-February 1991 war which flushed out invading Iraqi forces.

But he hinted the rest of it could be put down to capital flight, adding that the KCB had to "inject liquidity into the market to support certain local banks, who were confronted by difficulties caused by the capital outflow."

Without specifying the part played by imports in the imbalance, he said "the capital outflow was not necessarily due to financial or monetary factors."

He asserted, however, that the outflow had not affected the operations of Kuwaiti banks, who had benefited from government funds aimed at rebuilding infrastructure which was seriously damaged by the Iraqi occupation.

He said Kuwaiti banks' balance sheets showed their solvency rate was greater than the eight per cent stipulated by the Bank of International Settlements following the Bank of Credit and Commerce International fiasco.

The sheikh said he was confident about Kuwait's economy and ruled out any currency exchange controls to counter the capital loss.

Left-wing victory could slow down Polish reforms

WARSAW (R) — The left-wing election win in Poland could prompt some risky economic moves and slow down market reforms but the drive towards a full market economy is in no immediate danger, commentators said Monday.

Preliminary results showed two leftist groups with roots in communist times — the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) and the Polish Peasant Party (PSL) — may be able to form a majority coalition in the 460-seat lower house of parliament.

Both parties have stressed support for market reforms but also

formulated some macroeconomic and social policy targets that could upset the economy's fragile stability.

"Communism will not return to Poland, it will never return. The problem is that the pace of reforms carried out so far could now slow down," said Bronislaw Geremek, leader of the pro-capitalist Democratic Union (U.D.) party.

Four years of tough reforms have restored some international faith in Poland's economy and the country appears to be emerging from recession.

But economists fear the left's

election promises of relaxed monetary policies and higher social security spending could further stretch Poland's strained budget.

"If there is a left-wing government, I believe the economic situation will deteriorate. Maybe not immediately but certainly in the long run," said Andrzej Olechowski, former finance minister and President Lech Walesa's top economic adviser.

But the SLD, which said it would immediately begin talks on forming a coalition following the Sunday poll, was quick to offer assurances that it would not seek major changes in the path of reforms.

"I want to stress that the SLD is a party which strongly wants to continue market reforms," the group's top leader Aleksander Kwasniewski said.

Mr. Kwasniewski said the party would like to continue privatisation.

"We would allow a deficit of up to 5.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and if it turns out the economy is efficient with 70 per cent of it in private hands, this is okay with us," he said in a newspaper interview.

Business economists see growth slowing in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The improvement in the nation's economy is expected to be short-lived, some of the nation's top economists contend in a forecast that disagrees with Clinton administration 1994 projections.

Although the consensus of 41 forecasters surveyed by the National Association of Business Economists does not suggest another recession soon, it projects a steady slowdown in the economy after the current quarter.

"While our panelists do expect a rebound in real growth to three per cent in the third quarter, that's as good as it gets," according to a summary of the survey released Monday.

The survey, which was conducted in late August, was presented to the association's annual meeting in Chicago and made available in Washington.

The survey consensus projects growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) slowing to 2.9 per cent in the first three months of 1994 and 2.1 per cent during the following three months. The

GDP is the total amount of goods and services produced in the United States.

"Over the four quarters of 1993, GDP is now expected to rise only 2.3 per cent," down from the 2.8 per cent in the April survey and 3.1 per cent last February," the summary said.

"For 1994, GDP is expected to grow 2.7 per cent, down from the earlier prediction of three per cent in April and 3.2 per cent in February, it added.

Actually, the business economists' 1993 growth forecast of 2.3 per cent, fourth quarter over fourth quarter, is slightly more optimistic than the administration's three per cent projection.

But the economists' 2.7 per cent consensus for 1994 falls short of the administration's three per cent forecast.

Both the business economists' and the administration's projections for this year were held back by anemic growth during the first six months.

Government statistics show the economy expanded at a 0.8 per cent annual rate from January through March and 1.8 per cent

during the three months ended last June. That was down sharply from the 5.7 per cent pace of the final quarter of 1993.

One reason for the slow economic growth is that weak economies overseas are curbing U.S. trading partners' ability to buy American-made goods.

A separate report from the International Monetary Fund suggests that situation is unlikely to improve significantly any time soon.

The IMF's new economic forecast, set for release Wednesday will predict growth in the industrial world of just 1.1 per cent this year, even worse than the anemic 1.5 per cent gain posted in 1992, said an IMF official who briefed reporters last week on condition of not being identified by name.

The official said the IMF is revising its projection downward to reflect recessions in Germany and Japan and growth in the United States so far this year at less than half the expected pace.

The business economists' outlook for the U.S. economy projects the merchandise trade deficit to jump from \$84.50 billion

in 1992 to \$96 billion this year and to \$110 billion in 1994.

But because of this year's budget agreement that included tax increases and spending restraints, the federal budget deficit is projected to fall from \$289 billion in 1992 to \$275 billion this year and to \$251 billion in 1994.

The economists also believe the economy's slack pace will keep inflation in check.

"There will be sufficient slack in labour and product markets to head off any meaningful acceleration of prices," the survey said. It predicted the consumer price index will rise 3.2 per cent in 1993 and 3.3 per cent in 1994.

After reaching 6.1 per cent in 1990, the CPI dipped to 3.1 per cent the following year and to 2.9 per cent last year.

The consensus projects the unemployment rate, which was as high as 7.7 per cent in June and July 1992, to continue declining gradually from an annual average of 6.9 per cent this year to 6.6 per cent in 1994.

South Africa launches major investment drive

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Black and white political leaders are launching a major drive to lure investors and business to post-apartheid South Africa.

African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela will set the ball rolling with his expected call this week for an end to non-military sanctions imposed during the apartheid era.

But there are no illusions as to the end to sanctions alone will produce any windfalls for an economy bled by four years of recession and political violence that has killed more than 10,000 people since President F. W. de Klerk set out in 1990 to scrap apartheid.

"A fair amount of work has to be done in respect of political certainty and dealing with violence to really realise the necessary inflows of investment," says top ANC official Trevor Manuel.

An ANC foreign affairs official

said Mr. Mandela will call for the removal of non-arms embargoes in an address to the United Nations General Assembly Friday.

ANC officials say this assumes that parliament, this week approves legislation drafted at democracy talks for a transitional executive council to level the political playing field ahead of all-race elections in April.

Mr. Mandela's call for an end to sanctions would enable South Africa to take steps to normalise ties with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank at their joint annual meeting in Washington, which starts formally on Sept. 28.

Mr. Mandela, after his U.N. appearance, is scheduled Friday to address the World Economic Development Congress, at which Mr. De Klerk will speak the next day.

Meantime top-level investment conferences focusing on South

Africa are scheduled in New York on Sept. 27, and in Washington on Oct. 1.

"Those are hopefully two, major events," said Mr. Manuel, head of the ANC's economic department.

He said talks were also planned with U.S. legislators, including those at state and local level where many anti-apartheid embargoes remain in force.

"Until such time as they move, you're not going to see the managers of investment capital in a position to deal with things," Mr. Manuel said.

The New York conference will feature among its speakers Finance Minister Derek Keys and ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa.

Mr. Mandela will deliver the keynote address at the Oct. 1 Washington conference.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 1993
By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carrot Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Cooperation with the most original, striking and unusual personalities with whom you have any dealings or contact with. You will find them willing to assist you in attaining your goals and desires.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your property concerns require first place today and you would be wise to early consult with an aggressive, successful person for aid and assistance.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think about some new means by which you will be able to gain the various things that you want in your personal activities and be more openminded.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can let a confidential advisor in on your plans and benefit by so doing but be sure your close attachment interests are well considered too.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is the day to early find out what friends and outside associates will do to unite in a plan of action for the mutual benefit of all.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Let one in a position to influence your talented gifts know just what they are and that you are a conscientious person who applies oneself to any job.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study new facets of either unknown projects or those in which you have already been unsuccessful and unexpected results.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You would be wise to use this morning's good aspects to handle some financial or property matters where your home or family conditions are concerned.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A determined person only responds to requests and is cooperative if you are very practical in discussions and engage in no idealistic concepts.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think about your duties today from the angle of the material benefits that are derived from them and plan ways to increase those amounts.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your great ability is in organising and this is touched off to your advantage by getting an early start at whatever talents you wish to express.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) An urge to get into the intimate part of whatever concerns your home life or family affairs can be your main outlet, especially if you get involved early.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Communications with friends and acquaintances should bring you unusually beneficial results in a better understanding so approach messages from that stance.

Horizon advertising network holds training seminar in Athens

AS PART of its ongoing reinforcement programme, Horizon, one of the successful Middle East advertising agency networks, recently held an intensive Presentation Skills Training Seminar in Athens, for account management teams. Twelve candidates from all the offices of the network

took part: Athens, Amman, Beirut, Dubai, Jeddah, Kuwait and Paris.

Subjects covered included, among others, effective preparation and presentation, presentation techniques, selling skills, advertising research methods, and latest market developments.

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MYLAD
ZAMIE
STINCH
ENTODE

WHAT THE HAY FEVER SUFFERER DID WHEN HE READ ABOUT THE POLLEN COUNT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer:

Yesterday's Jumbles: LEAFY BOOTH EFFACE WALRUS
Answer: What weather forecasters sometimes are— ALL WET

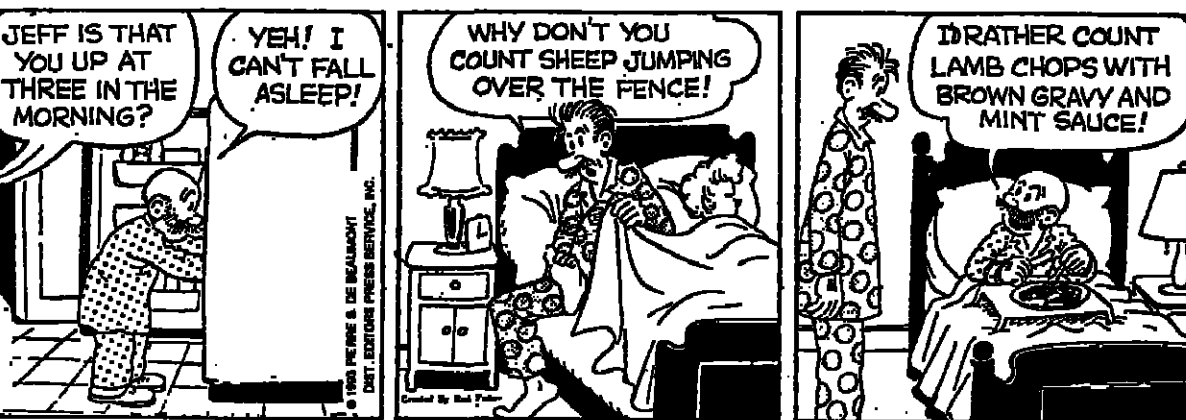
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS
1 Actress Irene
6 Vacation spot
10 — up (makes sense)
14 Sharp
15 Actor Shari
16 Indian
17 Shabby
19 Beatles' movie
20 — Haw
21 Deplete
22 Copperfield's word?
24 Letter from Greece
25 Derry
26 Longing
28 NYC section
30 Sky track
31 Marianne's mount
32 Botanist Gray
35 Approach
36 Start of a toast
37 Ship sideways
38 Muffin
39 Aerts
40 Certain
41 Thirty distributed
43 Looks fixedly
44 On a horse
46 Parks
47 Holy place
48 Govern
49 Passing grade
52 Took to court
53 Embroidery
56 Otherwise
57 Relative of dam
58 Lord of court
59 Russian news agency
60 Small boat
61 Spirited horse

DOWN
1 Trail
2 Suffer
3 Genuine
4 Had a snack
5 Where to find pinnups
6 Snake
7 — For All Seasons
8 Blemish
9 Gets ready
10 One-seeded fruit
11 Mistle
12 Alluvial deposit
13 Indian soldier
14 Love foolishly
23 Sit up
24 Whining sound
25 Nasty outburst
26 Rats!
27 Sworn
28 Garment worker
29 City in the Ruhr region
31 Intrinsically
33 Go along (with)
34 Summer drink
35 Shifted
37 Hit
38 Farm wagon
40 City name
42 Groups of lions
43 Promote successfully
44 Property
45 Dolphin's catch
46 Pal
48 Ring up
49 — c Azur
50 — Gardner
51 Supplement (with 'nd')
54 Pal
55 Mince

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

BACK ARCADE CARS
EACH ARCADE CARS
AMEN ARCADE CARS
REY ARCADE CARS
YEAST HARE
ACCENT DOWNHEAT
TARBS DEPOSITS
ARAY PIMANT SHOA
ARAY PIMANT SHOA
REBEL CISTS REAGENTS
BEIGE CISTS REAGENTS
OSCAR PIMANT SHOA
SPOT AVOLLO SHOA
STINE GERS SHOA

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ORGANIZED MARKET: 20/09/1993

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADE VOLUME	PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	204,000	187.250	187.000	185.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	24,972	8.300	8.270	8.200
CHALDI AMMAN BANK	47,952	31.000	31.000	31.000
MARK OF JORDAN	2,728	4.250	4.250	4.200
WILSON BANK INVESTMENT BANK	46,078	2.110	2.120	2.090
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	642,647	4.070	4.230	4.100
THE JORDANIAN BANK	53,535	5.070	5.070	5.050
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	37,010	4.070	4.110	4.080
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	38,830	4.100	4.100	4.100
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	37,010	4.070	4.110	4.080
WILSON BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	9,824	4.900	4.900	4.900
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	22,250	4.700	4.750	4.750
SETI ELALI SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	17,180	4.700	4.650	4.600
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	85,974	1.890	1.910	1.890
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1,862	4.250	4.250	4.250
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	48,014	2.770	2.760	2.740
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	4,565	3.950	3.950	3.950
ARAB LIFE & INSURANCE COMPANY	9,363	3.150	3.170	3.150
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	9,500	3.040	3.000	3.000
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	143,382	2.490	2.480	2.480
JORDAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	252	1.260	1.260	1.260
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	3,177	3.050	3.050	3.120
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	61,951	0.650	0.650	0.650
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	20,852	4.170	4.160	4.170
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	1,862	4.250	4.250	4.250
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	4,466	0.580	0.570	0.580
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	4,382	1.120	1.120	1.120
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	1,368	1.120	1.140	1.140
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	11,345	20.300	20.300	20.300
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	1,127	9.400	9.700	9.700
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	1,862	2.240	2.240	2.240
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	21,049	2.840	2.840	2.820
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	2,650	25.000	25.000	25.000
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	420	2.120	2.100	2.100
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	434,821	3.090	3.140	3.100
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	3,816	7.700	7.700	7.700
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	32,142	10.400	10.550	10.550
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	28,443	11.600	11.600	11.600
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	28,239	7.550	7.550	7.490
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	28,239	7.550	7.550	7.490
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	441,923	0.900	0.900	0.890
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	22,263	7.600	7.600	7.570
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	1,862	4.250	4.250	4.250
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	1,960	3.920	3.920	3.920
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	4,200	4.100	4.100	4.100
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	10,308	20.400	19.750	20.400
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	30,919	2.700	2.700	2.700
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	7,850	0.490	0.490	0.490
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	90,913	17.050	15.250	17.000
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	1,340	10.100	10.100	9.900
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	198,310	10.100	10.100	9.900
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	1,340	10.100	10.100	9.900
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	230	0.340	0.330	0.320
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	11,109	0.700	0.700	0.700
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	45,348	3.720	3.710	3.700
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	4,550	2.640	2.600	2.600
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	7,809	7.000	6.800	7.000
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	330	1.400	1.400	1.400
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	5,200	3.900	3.900	3.700
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	44,981	8.300	8.300	8.520
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	7,991	3.700	3.700	3.700
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	10,811	3.690	3.700	3.740
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	4,218	1.600	1.620	1.580
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	4,196	1.600	1.600	1.580
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	43,008	5.580	5.570	5.520
GRAND TOTAL				3,589,008
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	134,675			
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	130	223,195		

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OPEC must make radical policy changes to survive, expert says

NICOSIA, Cyprus (Agencies) — OPEC's usefulness is vanishing rapidly and the oil group must make radical policy changes if it is to survive, according to a prominent oil expert quoted by the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) Monday.

The respected oil industry newsletter quoted Nordine Ait Laoussine, Algeria's former energy minister and a prominent "OPEC insider," as saying: "OPEC will not survive if it stays on its present course. If the whole approach is not radically changed, we may as well bid farewell to OPEC."

Speaking at an energy seminar in Oxford, England, Sept. 10, Mr. Ait Laoussine said: "OPEC must react because its vital interests are at stake."

"If we just stay, with fatalistic resignation, on the path we have followed for the past several years and if, as a result, the organization ceases to exist, then we will have only ourselves to blame," he said.

MEES, published in Nicosia, noted that Mr. Ait-Laoussine's speech "amounted to a blistering indictment of the OPEC strategy of improving production volume and market share at the expense of price, which has effectively been in place since the price crash of 1986."

Mr. Ait-Laoussine, now a Geneva-based energy consultant, said the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) should abandon its current strategy of maximising production and "solemnly declare that the over-riding goal is not price level or market share, but the amount of overall revenues achieved."

To restore its dwindling credibility, he said the group must adopt a new strategy that includes these measures:

- Replacing its current, much-violated production quota system with one that factors in Iraq's return to the oil market once U.N. trade sanctions are lifted.
- Boosting the current target price of \$21 a 42-gallon barrel to \$25 "to provide a consensus among producers and be acceptable to the consumers."
- Protecting "the producers' economic rent" which is being eroded by increased taxes on oil in consumer countries.
- Improving trading procedures, which are playing an increasingly important role in the world oil market, because current price mechanisms for exports are not working properly.

Mr. Ait Laoussine said: "Price-wise ... the market share strategy is a total failure. This should surprise no one since, in essence, its objective, as formulated in 1986, was precisely to bring prices down to improve market share through increased consumption and reduced non-OPEC supplies."

He stressed that OPEC members "must ask themselves if the mutuality of economic interests, which existed in the 1960s and 1970s ... is still there, or whether it has vanished as a result of the developments of the 1980s, namely the Iran-Iraq war, the Gulf crisis and the resulting so-called new world order."

"If they don't share the same fundamental objectives any more, then OPEC may as well take a recess or be dismissed altogether," he stressed.

Mr. Ait Laoussine noted that OPEC's efforts to achieve its pricing targets has been "dismal."

He estimated the average shortfall between January 1987 and August this year at around \$1.60 a barrel in nominal terms and \$4.00 in real terms.

This, he said, translated into a staggering loss of revenues for OPEC members which he estimated at more than \$200 billion in real terms over that period, with Saudi Arabia alone losing \$65 billion, more than its entire public debt.

Even in nominal terms, he said, the Saudis lost \$83 billion, while the kingdom could have added as much as \$28 billion to its coffers had it met its officially stated price objective simply in nominal terms.

Mr. Ait Laoussine said many analysts argue that OPEC has failed to reach its price targets because Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, is happy with the market price.

"While it is true that, owing to the sheer size of its exports, Saudi Arabia can practically pitch the price level wherever it pleases, we do not believe that the kingdom can really be happy with the present state of affairs since it is, with its current loss of about \$1 billion a month, by far the biggest loser in terms of export revenues," he said.

The kingdom's "rigidity on its self-assigned quota which precipitated the price decline," he said.

"The problem for OPEC is that the next largest producer, Iran, has not shown much flexibility either," Mr. Ait Laoussine said.

"The lack of compromise and constructive proposals on the part of OPEC's two biggest producers is clearly responsible for some of the price weakness experienced during the last few years," he noted.

Former OPEC secretary-general Francisco Parra has advocated that OPEC members pay each other to "set aside" oil output in the same way that European farmers set aside their acreage.

Mr. Parra said that forgoing production would raise prices, which would then provide the revenue to pay those members setting aside output.

"We in the producing countries are all concerned about the persistently low prices for crude oil and OPEC's inability to achieve its own, quite moderate, price target for any sustained period of time," Mr. Parra wrote to OPEC Secretary-General Subroto.

Financial Jordan Times

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 17/9/93	Tokyo Close 20/9/93
Sterling Pound	1.5515	1.5281
Deutsche Mark	1.6140	1.6186
Swiss Franc	1.4043	1.4066
French Franc	5.6265	5.6385**
Japanese Yen	104.48	104.20
European Currency Unit	1.1778	1.1745**

Unit for STG: European Opening to 8:00 a.m. GMT

European Interest Rates Date: 20/9/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.15	3.25	3.46
Sterling Pound	5.81	5.81	5.75	5.75
Deutsche Mark	6.81	6.43	6.18	5.90
Swiss Franc	4.56	4.62	4.31	4.12
French Franc	7.06	7.00	6.62	6.06
Japanese Yen	2.68	2.59	2.56	2.56
European Currency Unit	7.72	7.50	7.19	6.62

Interbank bid rates for immediate settlement U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 20/9/1993

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	353.00	7.00	Silver	4.08	0.090

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 20/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6890	0.6970
Sterling Pound	1.0575	1.0568
Deutsche Mark	0.4250	0.4271
Swiss Franc	0.4891	0.4915
French Franc	0.1219	0.1225
Japanese Yen	0.6599	0.6632
Dutch Guilder	0.3786	0.3805
Swedish Krona	0.0439	0.0441
Italian Lira	0.0439	0.0441
Belgian Franc	0.0439	0.0441

For 100

Other Currencies Date: 20/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7970	1.8270
Lebanese Lira	0.039375	0.040657
Saudi Riyal	0.1800	0.1870
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2550	2.3350
Qatari Riyal	0.1865	0.1875
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2300
Omani Riyal	1.7520	1.8020
UAE Dirham	0.1865	0.1878
Greek Drachma	0.2885	0.3285
Cypriot Pound	1.3685	1.4165

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3160/70	Canadian dollar
1.6195/05		Deutschmarks
1.8190/00		Dutch guilders
1.4095/05		Swiss francs
34.53/63		Belgian francs
5.6425/25		French francs
1564.06/0		Italian lire
104.20/30		Japanese yen
8.0640/40		Swedish crowns
7.0510/70		Norwegian crowns
7.0545/95		Danish crowns
\$1.5285/95		
One sterling	353.30/353.80	

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World News

Russia calls on Georgia to quit Abkhazia; blasts Shevardnadze

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev called Monday for Georgian troops to leave the breakaway republic of Abkhazia and attacked Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze for using force against ethnic separatists there, ITAR-TASS News Agency said.

Mr. Shevardnadze meanwhile remained in the Abkhazian capital Sukhumi as fighting continued on the outskirts of the city and troop reinforcements and military hardware continued to pour in, a Georgian spokeswoman said.

Grachev said that only the "immediate withdrawal" of Georgian forces from Abkhazia would end the fighting and prevent the "political ambitions" of both "old and new leaders," ITAR-TASS said.

His remarks contrasted sharply with Russian condemnations of the Abkhazian leadership since Thursday, when Abkhazian forces violated a 50-day-old ceasefire, and indicated that Russia would not intervene to help Mr. Shevardnadze.

Mr. Grachev, who held talks with Mr. Shevardnadze Friday, said the Georgian leader had rejected his proposal to deploy additional buffer troops in the conflict zone to disarm the warring sides and end the hostilities.

He said it was only Sunday that Mr. Shevardnadze, who had earlier vowed to defend Sukhumi with his own hands, had agreed to the Russian proposal, by which time, according to Mr. Grachev, it was too late to implement.

"As the latest events have shown, I was right," ITAR-TASS quoted Mr. Grachev as saying in a meeting in Moscow with his British counterpart, Malcolm Rifkind.

"Now I could not repeat this proposal even if I wanted to because in the last three days the situation in the Sukhumi region has changed so much that now the use of buffer forces to separate the two sides is impossible," he added.

Mr. Grachev said Vladislav Ardzinba, the Abkhazian leader, had told him that Abkhazian forces would agree to open a corridor allowing Georgian troops to pull out and had agreed not to enter central Sukhumi.

Abkhazian authorities have sought to justify their breaking of the ceasefire agreement signed July 27 on the grounds that Georgian forces had not kept to the agreed timetable for their withdrawal from the region.

Dzuri Vazhishvili, the spokeswoman for Mr. Shevardnadze, told AFP by telephone that the Georgian leader "has no intention" of leaving Sukhumi and denied reports the city had been taken by separatist forces.

ITAR-TASS, citing information from the Abkhazian Parliamentary Press Service, said Abkhazian forces had surrounded Sukhumi and had "partially entered" the city, without giving further details.

The Abkhazian troops had also taken control of several villages around Sukhumi and had blocked road and railway bridges over the Kodori River south of the city.

ITAR-TASS said. There were no fresh reports on casualties but news agencies Sunday reported that some 50 people had been killed and more than 450 wounded since the fighting renewed Thursday.

Interfax News Agency said there was "fierce fighting" during the night around the Kodori River and the city of Ochamchira along the Black Sea coast south of Sukhumi.

The report, quoting Georgian military sources, said a number of prisoners from the Abkhazian side had been captured and added that most of them were ethnic Russians or Chechens from the northern Caucasus.

The government forces were reportedly given a boost over the weekend when rebels from western Georgia who are loyal to ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia agreed to lift their blockade of rail and road lines into Abkhazia and join the battle against the Abkhazian separatists, according to Georgian radio.

Abkhazia, one of two autonomous republics in Georgia, has been at war with Georgian government forces since August 1992 after Georgian troops stormed Sukhumi to counter Abkhazian's declaration of sovereignty the previous month.

More than 2,000 people have been killed in the fighting, according to government figures. Georgian television said Lota Kobalaya, commander of the "Zviadist" militia, had formally agreed to send all his men, numbering several thousands, and equipment to Abkhazia.

A spokesman for the local administration in Ochamchira, about 60 kilometres southeast of Sukhumi, said by telephone that Kobalaya had already arrived there with a unit of 500 men.

Under the agreement reached with Prime Minister Otari Patsatsia, the Zviadists appeared to have swung their full weight behind the government forces. Another 2,000 men would be sent to Abkhazia in the coming days.

It said the Zviadists would be under the overall command of Defence Minister Gia Karkarashvili though Kobalaya, who holds the rank of colonel, would join the Georgian High Command.

The main challenge for Col. Kobalaya's men in Ochamchira would be to break the rebels' grip on the highway to Sukhumi and open up a land supply route to the besieged regional capital.

Abkhaz separatist rebels said Monday they wanted Georgian forces besieged in Sukhumi to withdraw and had left a corridor for them to do so.

A spokeswoman for the Abkhazian parliament, speaking from the rebel stronghold of Gudauta, said the rebels had already seized the northern and western parts of the town.

"The town is completely encircled and there is no point in staging any further resistance," she said. "A corridor has been left for them to get out."

Meanwhile, U.S. President Bill Clinton has called on Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze to agree to peace talks and a separatist war in Abkhazia, Mr. Shevardnadze's office said Monday.



Three hours after leftist parties victory in Polish elections, police detain a young right-wing protester in Warsaw (AFP photo)

Polish ex-Communists try to form government

WARSAW (Agencies) — Poland's former Communists were set to start talks Monday on forming a coalition government after preliminary results gave them an emphatic election victory four years after the Communists were swept from power.

Partial official results from Sunday's poll showed the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) with 20.6 per cent of the vote and more than one third of the 460-seat Sejm (lower house).

Another leftist party, the Polish Peasant Party (PSL), was in second place with 15.3 per cent. The Democratic Union (UD), which led the outgoing coalition and is headed by former activists of the Solidarity opposition movement, fell back into third place with 10.7 per cent of the vote.

The outcome was a stinging rebuff for four years of radical free market reforms that have left many Poles dissatisfied and could make Poland the second Soviet-bloc country after Lithuania to elect ex-Communists after ousting them not too long ago.

"This is a great test of maturity. I believe that the political groups and politicians in Poland will pass the test of maturity well," SLD leader Aleksander Kwasniewski told reporters as his party quietly celebrated.

"We are proposing that...from this morning we ought to start talks, programmatic political talks," he said.

The result is widely expected to slow tough economic reforms which have started to pull Poland out of recession but alienated workers by causing higher unemployment, lower real wages and new taxes.

About 30 protesters, including some right-wing supporters, marched through central Warsaw early Monday chanting "down with the communists." Some were detained after brief scuffles with police.

Mr. Kwasniewski was sober in victory, acknowledging the SLD faced many problems if he managed to form Poland's fourth government since the one which ended more than four decades of Communist rule in 1989.

His initial remarks that he would welcome a coalition with the UD were rejected by a senior UD leader and there was no response from Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka, a UD member, to suggestions the SLD might want her as premier.

"We will try to form a government but it may turn out nobody wants to do that with us," Mr. Kwasniewski said.

The PSL, successor of a party that was allied to the Communists, failed to form a government when its leader Waldemar Pawlak was prime minister for one month last year.

Polish Television said the SLD could get 171 seats in the Sejm, the PSL 129 and the UD 69.

Parties which win less than five per cent of the vote are not allowed to enter the Sejm under a law intended to prevent the legislature being too fragmented.

The SLD has said it backs a market economy, including privatisation, foreign investment, reasonably tight budget controls and checks on inflation, but it has also indicated it will listen to demands from workers and pensioners.

A few days before the election Mr. Kwasniewski outlined his foreign policy priorities. He said that while his party was "not opposed" to Poland joining NATO, the Atlantic alliance would first have to undergo reforms to take into account the changes in Eastern Europe, including the admission of Russia and Ukraine.

Sihanouk may have prostate cancer

PEKING (AFP) — Prince Sihanouk, who ascends the throne of Cambodia Friday, said Monday he may need treatment for prostate cancer, and not a rectal tumour as first reported, but would still attend ceremonies to implement his country's new constitution.

In a message to his "beloved compatriots" issued from his secretariat in Peking, the 70-year-old prince said a tumour that was first believed to be in his rectum was in fact on his prostate, and his illness was "probably more serious than was thought."

Prince Sihanouk said "the best doctors" in China had examined him and would deliver their diagnosis before he headed for Phnom Penh. A medical meeting was to be held Monday, he said.

The constitutional ceremonies are scheduled for Thursday and Prince Sihanouk's installation as monarch is set for Friday.

"My Chinese doctors have not dared to reveal the seriousness of my illness, but it is possible that there is a cancer reaching my prostate," the message said.

"If in fact it is a cancer, an operation would be urgently necessary, in which case I would ask for your permission to return to Peking on Sept. 26 in order to have surgery," he said.

In Phnom Penh earlier, Prince Sihanouk said he did not want any coronation ceremony as he wanted to democratise the monarchy and avoid lavish expense.

In a fax addressed to his son Prince Ranariddh from Beijing where he is undergoing medical treatment, the chief of state said "the nation's money must be saved for the people's vital interests."

"In the interests of modernising and above all democratising" the monarchy, the only attributes of the monarchy must be the throne and the "svetchhate" (the Cambodian Royal Umbrella), the prince wrote.

Prince Sihanouk, who will be 71 at the end of next month, also asked that the king's and queen's crowns as well as the sacred sword, the symbol of the monarchy, not be used when he takes his oath of office.

The approval of Cambodia's new constitution, which restores Prince Sihanouk to the throne, has dealt a serious blow to the radical Khmer Rouge, already reeling from a spate of defections, officials said.

"In the past the Khmer Rouge have said clearly they would not be opposed to the monarchy in Cambodia, so I think they will not dare to fight against the monarchy," Deputy Minister of Information Ek Sereyuth said.

The Khmer Rouge represent the last hurdle on Cambodia's road to peace once the country's elected assembly meets Wednesday to give final approval to the constitution.

"The last problem now for Cambodia is the problem of the Khmer Rouge," Mr. Ek Sereyuth said.

Fellini makes journey of love to visit wife

ROME (R) — In what Italian media termed a journey of love, film director Federico Fellini travelled from a clinic in northern Italy where he is recovering from a stroke to spend the weekend with his wife, who is in a Rome hospital. Fellini, 73, told reporters he had not seen his wife of 24 years, actress Giulietta Masina, since Aug. 20 when she entered hospital in Rome after a nervous breakdown. "We needed to see each other again, to spend some time together," he said. Fellini was accompanied by a doctor for the 3½-hour drive Saturday from the clinic in Ferrara where he is undergoing therapy after a stroke on Aug. 3. He returned to Ferrara Sunday after spending the night in a hospital room adjoining his wife's. She is to be released this week. Fellini directed the 1960s classic La dolce vita and was awarded four Oscars for films including 8½ and Amarcord. He collapsed in August in his favourite hotel in Rimini, his home town, where he was recovering from a 14-hour heart bypass operation in Zurich in June.

French firm wins Chinese lottery ticket contract

PEKING (AFP) — A French firm is about to sign a joint venture with the Chinese government to make instant lottery tickets and hopes to sell its wares in China, a reliable source said Monday. A former official in the Chinese Foreign Ministry, who is now a consultant to French companies, said the contract would be signed by the end of the month. Internationale Des Jeux, the French partner, is a subsidiary of Francaise Des Jeux, a state-owned company that holds the monopoly on all lottery tickets sold in France. The Chinese side is the Lottery Ticket Distribution Centre for Social Welfare. Money raised from the scratchable tickets will be directed to public improvement projects, the government said. The joint venture will initially be worth about \$10 million to print and distribute scratch-off lottery tickets. Francaise Des Jeux, which beat out English, Australian and U.S. companies for the contract, says the contract could also lead to China adopting its "Loto" system, in which players try to pick half a dozen numbers from 49.

Blood of Naples patron saint turns liquid

NAPLES, Italy (R) — A substance devout Neapolitans believe is the congealed blood of 4th century martyr St Januarius liquefied on a scheduled Sunday. Residents hailed the phenomenon as a good omen for the city. The substance, held in two small phials, liquefied as prayers were said in the city's Church of San Gennaro. The three-yearly event, which scientists have not been able to explain fully, has occurred almost without fail since the middle ages. Faithful believe the liquefaction on the saint's feast day, Sept. 19, is the most important of the three. If the blood fails to turn liquid, Neapolitans believe it is a bad omen for the city's future.

Tardy school bells ring after asbestos delay

NEW YORK (AP) — Monday's first day of classes promised to be a cozying one for many of the city's 1 million public school students because of a lingering asbestos scare that kept dozens of schools closed. Students got an extra 11 days of summer vacation while frantic officials rushed to reinsure the city's 1,069 schools for asbestos. At least 43 buildings remained closed Monday, and some programmes were cancelled for lack of classroom space. The New York City schools chancellor, Ramon Cordero, urged parents to accompany their children to school Monday and Tuesday to help out. But he said he understood if they kept them home for a couple of days until the confusion subsided. "More than 80 per cent of our children will be going to their own schools and their own classrooms," Mr. Cordero said. In addition to closed schools, 13 special education programmes were closed and some students were to be on altered schedules, including shortened days. Students whose schools or programmes were closed were to be bused to other schools cleared by asbestos inspectors.

Jumbo Jet hauled back from Tahiti lagoon

PAPEETE, French Polynesia (R) — A 210-tonne Boeing 747 Jumbo Jet has been hauled back onto the tarmac of Tahiti's Fa'a Airport, a week after it overshot the runway and ended nose-down in a lagoon. Airport officials said they needed three cranes to lift the \$150 million Air France airliner Sunday and haul it up a specially laid concrete ramp.

Hamburg vote casts shadow over polls

BONN (R) — The spectre of heavy protest voting and erratic swings to the right loomed over German politics after many frustrated voters deserted the country's main political parties in polling in the city state of Hamburg.

The three traditional parties — the Christian Democrats (CDU), Social Democrats (SPD) and Free Democrats (FDP) — all suffered heavy losses in municipal elections Sunday in Germany's second largest city.

Fed up with rising rents, crime and immigration, no less than 16.8 per cent of Hamburg's voters turned to far-right parties and a two-month-old protest group called the "Instead Party."

A further 13.5 per cent voted for the environmentalist Greens, the left-wing protest party of the 1980s now firmly established as a force in Germany's power balance.

"Voters are deeply dissatisfied with politics in Germany and they don't differentiate any more about treated voters deserted the country's main political parties in polling in the city state of Hamburg."

The SPD's share of the vote slumped from 48 per cent to 40.4 per cent in the city state, one of the smallest of Germany's 16 federal states.

Peter Hintze, secretary general of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's CDU whose share fell to 25.1 per cent from 35.1 per cent, said: "This is a warning that something can break up if we don't listen to the signals the voters are sending."

What seems to be breaking up is the four-party system prevailing in Germany since the early 1980s, when the Greens muscled

in on the traditional cosy power triangle of the large CDU and SPD and the small liberal FDP.

The far right, casting its frustration at the government's failure to deal with mounting problems since reunification in 1990, has consistently won more than five per cent of the vote in state polls since the last federal election.

The rightists, with a similarly strong showing in general elections due in October 1994, could win so many seats in the Bonn parliament that the "natural coalitions" of CDU-FDP or SPD-Greens would both fall short of a majority.

The Hamburg success of the "Instead Party" raised the prospect that the party structure could break down even further, adding even more uncertainty to Mr. Kohl's reelection chances.

Fighting reported in Angola despite ceasefire

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Angola's government reported unrelenting attacks by UNITA rebels on the besieged city of Cuito Monday despite their promise of a unilateral ceasefire.

The government and many Western diplomats have greeted the truce call with scepticism that the rebels really want peace.

UNITA troops are continuing to attack, the correspondent for Angolan state radio in Cuito, Abel Abriao, reported six hours after the ceasefire was due to have taken effect.

Fighting was underway on the city's outskirts and artillery was pounding it from long range, he said in a report from the island state of Sao Tome and Principe.

UNITA radio made no mention of the ceasefire in its reports Monday but said government planes had bombed the rebel headquarters at Huambo, killing at least six people.

State-run media in Luanda reported Sunday night heavy rebel shelling of Cuito. It said 50 civilians were killed but the report, like others, could not be independently confirmed.

Aid groups, describing the city as a "forgotten Sarajevo," estimate at least 14,000 people have died there since the rebel siege began in January. Mr. Abriao put the toll at 20,000.

The government has repeatedly rejected the UNITA ceasefire offer, calling it a propaganda ploy.

The U.N. Security Council last week said it would impose an arms and fuel embargo if the rebels did not agree by next Saturday to resume talks on the tattered 1991 peace accord.

Hosokawa voices remorse over POW issue

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Prime Minister apologised Monday to British Prime Minister John Major for British suffering at Japanese hands during World War II, but rejected any direct compensation for former POWs who were used as slave labourers.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa told reporters he expressed "deep remorse" for Japan's actions during the war, including brutal treatment of the estimated 57,000 British POWs captured by Japan.

On the eve of Mr. Major's four-day visit, a group of former British POWs demanded an apology and \$240 million in compensation from Japan.

The two prime ministers, in a joint news conference after their talks, said government-to-government issues regarding the war — including compensation — had been settled by a 1951 peace treaty. However, they left open the prospect of some non-governmental action later.

The Japanese Labour Camp Survivors Association, which represents 12,000 former POWs, is seeking \$20,000 per person. Lawyer Martyn Day said the group was "disappointed with Mr. Hosokawa's intransigence" regarding any official government compensation.

He said the organisation would continue to lay the groundwork for legal action against the Japanese government. But Mr. Day said the group was "heartened" by the prospect of further steps at a non-governmental level.

Mr. Major said he made "plain the strong feelings that exist in Britain about the issue of the former prisoners of war."

"While we recognised that immediate solutions were not possible, we agreed to keep closely in touch about this matter, and contacts will therefore continue," he said.

Keating defends republic plan for Australia

DUBLIN (Agencies) — Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating defended his plans to make his country a republic in a speech to the Irish parliament Monday.

Mr. Keating told a session of the Dail, recalled from its summer break for the occasion, that "if change should not hold Australia back from becoming a republic."

"To those who want to hold back, who fear change, who say it is not the right time to do this, we might say 'what if our forebears had said this? What if they had lacked the imagination and the will? What if they had stayed put?'" Mr. Keating said.

"I would not be an Australian, nor would most of the 17 million others," he said.

Mr. Keating wants Australia to become a republic by 2001. He outlined his plans to Queen Elizabeth II at Balmoral Castle in northeast Scotland Saturday.

Australia has been an independent nation since 1901, but the British monarch has remained its titular head of state.

The Queen is represented in Australia by a governor-general appointed by the government, but many Australians believe the country should have a resident, elected head of state.

Mr. Keating has extended the term of the man who may be the next-to-last Governor-General of Australia if Mr. Keating's push for a republic succeeds.

Mr. Keating said Monday the term of her current representative, former Labour leader Bill Hayden, would be extended by two years to 1996.

Mr. Keating is visiting Ireland but said in a statement issued in Canberra that his decision followed weekend talks with Queen Elizabeth II.

Mr. Keating said the United States, Britain, Ireland and Monaco is due to end Sunday.

He visits Monaco Thursday for the announcement of the successful bidder for the 2000 Olympics, for which Sydney is a leading contender.

Elizabeth. Mr. Hayden had been due to step down in 1994 after serving the traditional period of five years as the queen's viceroy.

"I am grateful to him (Hayden) for indicating his willingness to continue to serve Australia as governor-general for an extended period," Mr. Keating said in the statement.

The main focus of Mr. Keating's visit to the queen, to express his determination that Australia become a republic, has inflamed the British tabloid press who have dubbed him "the lizard of Oz."

Mr. Keating's tour of the United States, Britain, Ireland and Monaco is due to end Sunday.

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China risks becoming next Yugoslavia

PEKING (AFP) — China will break apart like Yugoslavia soon after paramount leader Deng Xiaoping dies unless the central government takes drastic steps to halt mounting regionalism, an internal report here warned.

The 86-page report, obtained by AFP, also proposed adopting a U.S.-style federalist system that would reshape China's rubber-stamp parliament into a more democratic institution and create a legal framework for handling conflicts of interest between Peking and the provinces.

With Mr. Deng pushing 90 years of age, the report has caused a commotion here by predicting for the first time what has long been whispered in private — economic warlordism by the provinces is driving the country toward major upheaval.

"Until now policy makers have not realised the danger of the central government's rapid decline of power, or they have come up with no effective way to halt the trend," said the report titled "strengthening central government's leading role amid the shift to a market economy."

"If a political strongman dies, it is possible that a situation like post-Tito Yugoslavia will emerge," it said.

"In years, at the soonest a few and at the latest between 10 and 20, the country will move from economic collapse to political breakup, ending with its disintegration."

It argued that Peking gave up too much power to the provinces after Mr. Deng launched market reforms in 1978, especially since the sudden shift to a market

economy last year, which resulted in an economic free-for-all by provinces accustomed to four decades of rigid state planning.

The report, written by two influential Yale University-educated scholars and printed by the Chinese academy of Sciences, predicted a power struggle between Peking and the provinces as well as inter-provincial clashes.

It was distributed to government leaders and senior lawmakers who have drawn heavily on its analysis and borrowed many of its suggestions.

The report stresses an economic weakening of Peking's control as the fuse of collapse rather than the ethnic divisions that tore apart Yugoslavia, where President Tito died in 1980 and civil war erupted 11 years later.

Upstarts jolt U.S. networks at TV awards ceremony

PASADENA, California (R) — An upstart cable channel topped the list of winners at U.S. television's annual awards gala, giving a bloody nose to the network big boys.

The government has repeatedly rejected the UNITA ceasefire offer, calling it a propaganda ploy.

The U.N. Security Council last week said it would impose an arms and fuel embargo if the rebels did not agree by next Saturday to resume talks on the tattered 1991 peace accord.

Although the non-networks did not sweep the board — winning 38 to the networks' 76 — the cable, syndication and public broadcasting industry has taken big steps forward while commercial networks have languished.

Cable and public broadcasting outlets cannot compete with the networks in certain Emmy categories because they do not generally make series, to which many of the awards go.

Entertainment industry observers said the 1993 awards spelled the end of network dominance of U.S. television and recognised the diversity of programming.

Rupert Murdoch's Fox Television, the fourth national network, garnered four.

Entertainment executives attending the ceremony at the Pasadena Civic Centre said the message to the networks was clear.

"The networks have got to realise they are in a fight, and that people like HBO, Showtime and television mogul Ted Turner are not only a threat, but a very real and very serious threat," said entertainment executive Cliff Dekker, a former governor of the academy.

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Although the Emmys, unlike the movie Oscars, are not money spinners, they are regarded as a pointer to the direction in which popular television should be moving.

An Oscar can bring in millions at the box office while an Emmy is unlikely to attract viewers. But the message was clear, said Mr. Dekker — "it's quality, quality, quality."

"This is the kick in the butt the networks need to get themselves back in shape," said one industry analyst at the Emmy gala. Among the network winners

was CBS, which took three awards in the drama categories. Its quirky Ficket Fences won the best drama category as well as best actor and actress in a drama for Tom Skerritt and Kathy Baker.

Comedienne Roseanne Arnold was reported to have refused to attend the ceremony because the academy had failed to nominate her successful ABC show Roseanne for best comedy for the past five years.

But Arnold, who co-produces the show with her husband Tom Arnold, won for outstanding actress in a comedy series on her second nomination.

Laurie Metcalfe, who plays Arnold's sister Jackie, was judged best supporting comedy actress for the second year in succession.

NBC's offbeat Seinfeld, which stars Jerry Seinfeld as a standup comic and was first shown in May, 1990, has received 23 nominations in the past three years. It won three more Sunday to bring its total to eight.

Cheers, which had its final season this year, had previously won 26 Emmys and won two more this year.

Women's Basketball Championship Jazireh, Orthodoxi clash today

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

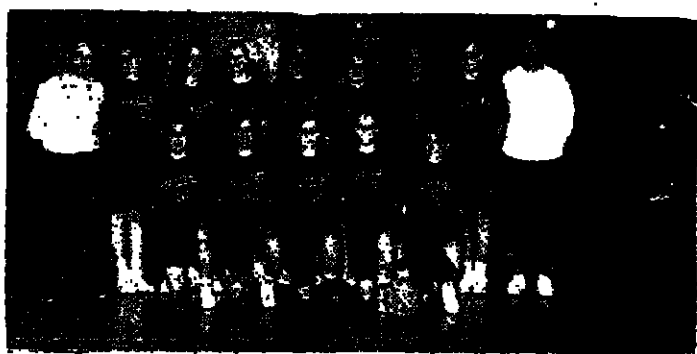
AMMAN — Al Jazireh clash against the Kingdom's titleholders Al Orthodoxi Tuesday in the most awaited match of the 1993 Women's Basketball Championship.

Al Jazireh had scored a big 65-58 upset over Al Orthodoxi in the first round last Tuesday, and unless Al Orthodoxi win by over 8 points today Al Jazireh will be crowned the Kingdom's new champions after a three-year undisputed reign by Al Orthodoxi.

Al Jazireh, who had finished fourth after Homentmen, Ahli and Orthodoxi when they first joined the women's competition in the 1991 season now lead the standings after maintaining an unbeaten record this year.

They beat new-comers Abu Nusair 72-5 (44-1). They also humiliated last year's runners-up Al Ahli 62-33 (31-14) and 76-20 (39-19).

Meanwhile Al Orthodoxi, whose coach and players were



Al Jazireh's team aiming for the title

stunned after their defeat to the relatively less-experienced Jazireh players, scored a crushing 166-5 (57-5) win over Abu Nusair in an attempt to send a strong message that they are determined not to let

the title easily slip away.

Al Orthodoxi had also defeated once all-time rivals Al Ahli 52-30 (33-18) and Abu Nusair 78-15 (40-11). The latter also lost 74-15 to Ahli.

STANDINGS

	P	W	L	PF	SA	Pts
Jazireh	4	4	—	275	116	8
Orthodoxi	4	3	1	354	115	7
Ahli	4	1	3	157	205	5
Abu Nusair	4	—	4	40	390	4

'No magic' potions — Drugs chief

BEIJING (AFP) — A Chinese sports medicine official, denying Chinese athletes use drugs, said no potion known to man can help a runner break a world record at 10,000 metres.

Yang Tianle, a professor who specialised in doping and heads China's National Research Institute of Sports Medicine, said traditional Chinese medicine produced countless health tonics.

"But not one of them could enable such records to be broken," said Yang, a member of the International Anti-Doping working group.

China's Wang Junxia, 20, not only broke the women's 10,000m world record, she destroyed it at the recent National Games here, shattering a massive 42 sec off the old mark.

The Chinese runners had already been the target of drug-taking allegations after their performance at the World Championships in Stuttgart in August when Wang won the 10,000m. Qu Yunxia led home a Chinese sweep in the 3,000m and Liu Dong won the 1,500m.

"Every year, many world records are broken and we can't harbour these kind of doubts every time," Yang said. "The International Amateur Athletics Association (IAAF) carried out tests at the World Championships in Stuttgart and no trace of drugs was found."

He searched to explain how Wang Junxia, 20, could break four world records over three distances in six days during the national games, including her phenomenal 10,000m run.

The New York Yankees: Going, going .. gone?

NEW YORK (AP) — Tradition. More than any other team in American professional sports, the New York Yankees epitomize it. The house that Ruth built. The 33 American League titles. The 22 U.S. Major League Baseball "World Series" championships. Lou Gehrig. Joe Dimaggio. Mickey Mantle.

The dozen retired numbers, displayed in Monument Park. Don Larsen's perfect World Series game in 1956. Roger Maris' 61 homers. Whitey Ford. Yogi Berra. Reggie Jackson.

Tradition. Team officials warn it may not be enough to keep the Yankees in the ballpark in the Bronx section of New York City where they've ruled for 70 years. Not unless the city augments it with 4,000 new parking spaces, upgrades mass transit, luxury boxes, improved access — oh, and a better neighbourhood.

"The Yankees have long played in the Bronx. By the same token, that's not going to cut it," said team counsel Melvyn Leventhal. "That's not enough to keep the Yankees in Yankee Stadium." Despite a pennant race that's raised some of the stadium's long-dormant glories — the Yankees' last played in the World Series in 1981 — tradition has struck out and economics is hitting cleanup.

The past is in the past; the future may be across the Hudson River in the neighbouring state of New Jersey.

With a jealous eye toward the Baltimore Orioles' new stadium Camden Yards and the Toronto Blue Jays' Skydome (with their 3 million-plus attendance), Yankees owner George Steinbrenner wants a state-of-the-art ballpark of his own. New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, among others, thinks it won't be in the Bronx.

New Jersey Gov. Jim Florio indicated the Yankees could find a home in his state. Cuomo and New York City Mayor David Dinkins vowed to fight for the Yankees, raising the possibility of a new stadium in the Manhattan Borough of the city. Crime statistics were trotted out to show the stadium was unsafe.

Magic bidding for NBA expansion team

NEW YORK (AP) — Magic Johnson says he has always wanted to own an NBA team. Johnson, winner of five NBA championships with the Los Angeles Lakers, was to take a step in that direction Monday by appearing before the NBA expansion committee as part of a group trying to bring a team to Toronto.

Three groups of investors from Toronto and one from Vancouver were scheduled to make one-hour pitches to the committee chaired by Jerry Colangelo, president of the Phoenix Suns. After the presentations, the committee had 30 minutes to ask questions.

The three applicants for Toronto came from investors known as the Palestra Group, a group headed by John Bitove and a group led by Michael Kohl and Bill Ballard, which includes Johnson.

The Vancouver presentation was to be made by a group headed by Arthur Griffiths. The committee also includes Philadelphia 76ers President Harold Katz, Portland Trail Blazers Vice Chairman Bert Kolde, Utah Jazz owner Larry Miller and

Los Angeles Lakers owner Jerry Buss.

If the NBA expands from 27 teams to 28, the new team would not begin play before the 1995-96 season.

The league grew by four teams — Miami, Charlotte, Orlando and Minnesota — over a two-year period in the late 1980s. The expansion fee then was \$32.5 million per team, an amount that is certain to be much higher the next time around.

The NBA already has sent players to the Olympics, played annual exhibitions in Europe and two regular-season games in Japan last year. Plans are in the works for a world championship tournament involving teams that aren't All-Star squads.

Sampras still tops the world

PARIS (AFP) — Pete Sampras is still number one in the world of tennis Monday in a largely unchanged top 10 of the men's ranking list.

But Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic moves up a place to nine following his win in Bucharest last week.

ATP rankings

1. Pete Sampras (USA)
2. Jim Courier (USA)
3. Boris Becker (Germany)
4. Sergi Bruguera (Spain)
5. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)
6. Michael Stich (Germany)
7. Andrei Medvedev (Ukraine)
8. Michael Chang (USA)
9. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)
10. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands)
11. Petr Korda (Czech)
12. Thomas Muster (Austria)
13. Cedric Pioline (France)
14. Alexander Volkov (Russia)
15. Ivan Lendl (USA)
16. Wally Masur (Australia)
17. Karol Novacek (Czech)
18. Todd Martin (USA)
19. Magnus Gustafsson (Sweden)
20. Marc Rosset (Switzerland)
21. Andre Agassi (USA)
22. Wayne Ferreira (S. Africa)
23. Henrik Holm (Sweden)
24. Arnaud Boetsch (France)
25. Guy Forget (France)

Sabatini seeks first title of season

In Tokyo, Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini is looking to win her first title in 16 months at the \$375,000 Nichirei Women's Tennis Tournament this week.

Sabatini, seeded second, downed Yugoslav Monica Seles 7-5, 6-4 to win the Italian Open in May last year, but has failed to grab any titles since.

Sabatini failed to defend all five titles won last season, while Seles has seen out of the game since April 30 when she suffered a stab wound during a tournament in Germany.

South Africa's Amanda Coetzer, seeded fourth, is in the same half of the draw as Spain's top seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

Brazil and Bolivia qualify for World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO (Agencies) — Two second-half goals from Romario gave Brazil a 2-0 victory over Uruguay, putting the Brazilians into the 1994 World Cup and keeping their perfect cup qualifying record intact.

Bolivia, who rocketed to the top of the group with five consecutive victories before endangering their qualification with two defeats, made sure of reaching the finals for the first time since 1950 by drawing 1-1 with Ecuador in Guayaquil.

Romario, called up from Spanish League club Barcelona, put Brazil ahead in the 72nd minute when he headed home a high cross from Bebeto on the right. He added the second 10 minutes later, beating two defenders to shoot over the Uruguayan keeper's head.

Brazil, who at one point in the qualifying campaign looked in danger of failing to reach the finals for the first time in history, finished winners of South American Zone Group B with 12 points from eight matches.

Bolivia were second with 11 points.

William Ramallo, scored in the 54th minute to put Bolivia ahead, and they held on to a crucial point despite Raul Noriega's equaliser from a goalmouth scramble in the 72nd minute.

Ramallo took his tally for the qualifying campaign to seven goals, making him the leading scorer in Group B.

Carnival came early as Brazilians celebrated their country's soccer victory over arch rival Uruguay.

The party started at Maracana Stadium, the largest soccer arena in the world, where a sold-out crowd of 103,000 filled up seats four hours before the game was to begin at 1700 local time (2000 GMT). Many wore bright yellow jerseys and waved green and yellow banners while scores of drummers paced a giant chorus shouting "Brazil Brazil".

"My eight-year-old son knew Brazil had been a champion, but never had experienced the feeling," Gustavo Barbosa, 42, told the AP. "I took him to today's game so he'll know what national pride is all about," said Barbosa.

Brazil, a three-time world champion and the only nation to compete in all world championships, was struggling to qual-



Brazil's Romario (centre) is sandwiched between Uruguay's Herrera (left) and Canals in their World Cup qualifying match (AFP photo)

ify for the 1994 World Cup. The team had lost a first-ever qualifying match, to Bolivia, and needed at least a tie against Uruguay Sunday to qualify for next year's championship.

Some had feared that Uruguay would repeat its 1950 World Cup final upset victory over Brazil in the same stadium; that was Brazil's saddest moment in sports history.

Thousands crowded the players' exit as game hero Romario, author of Brazil's two goals, appeared with a shield of gray uniformed, billyclub carrying police officers as escort.

Fans shouted "Romario, Romario" pounding the top of his car as if it were a giant drum. "Brazil is now ready for the United States World Cup," said Jim Kappeler, an American living here. "Now the United States must get ready for next year's invasion of Brazilian soccer fans. They cheer with pride, passion, and carnival joy adding an extra dimension to the sport," Kappeler said.

Traffic in all Brazilian cities came to a halt as the nation of 150 million, rich and poor, glued themselves to the televised game. "In Brazil soccer is religion,"

Dr. Carlos Renault, a physician, told the AP. "What's going on now is a national revival," Renault said.

In La Paz, Bolivia hundreds of thousands of Bolivians took to the streets Sunday evening to celebrate Bolivia's first World Cup berth since 1950.

Firecrackers and dynamite caps exploded throughout La Paz as Bolivians of all ages celebrated what was thought impossible two months ago when the qualifying began.

Fans waving flags and banners honked horns and shouted "long live Bolivia."

The main street in the capital of La Paz was closed to traffic and celebrations that were expected to continue through the night began throughout the impoverished nation of 6.3 million. Television and radio stations suspended their normal programming and switched to coverage of Bolivia's qualification.

Thousands of fans are expected to greet the Bolivian national team when it returns to Bolivia from Guayaquil.

"This marks the resurgence of a country that sees its future with optimism," said President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

He said Bolivia won based on hard organized work under the command of the Spanish trainer Xavier Azkargorta. He has become an overnight hero for preparing the Bolivian team.

For Bolivia, once considered the most politically unstable and poorest in Latin America, Sunday marked a historic day. Bolivia is now one of the strongest democracies on the continent and has a growing economy.

When the qualifying matches for Group B began two months ago, Bolivia was not considered a likely candidate for the World Cup. But after five straight victories, including a 2-0 victory against Brazil, Bolivia was considered invincible and sure to win a berth at the finals.

But a humiliating 6-0 defeat against Brazil and a 2-1 loss to Uruguay put its once seemingly assured berth in jeopardy. Despite the draw, Bolivia would have qualified anyway because Brazil beat Uruguay 2-0 in Rio De Janeiro later Sunday.

But Bolivia wanted to earn the berth themselves and silence critics who claimed it was not as good as its early record indicated.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

Crisis looms as Real lose again; Marseille win

PARIS (AFP) — Benito Floro's days as manager of Real Madrid looked numbered this weekend when the legendary Spanish giants crashed to a humiliating four-goal defeat at Deportivo La Coruna.

It was Real's second consecutive league defeat after their 1-3 home loss to Real Valladolid and the most famous club in Europe are now languishing in 15th place in the table.

Claudio did the damage for depleted La Coruna, who were without their Brazilian stars Mauro Silva and Bebeto who were on World Cup duty. He scored a goal in each half, hit the woodwork, and had a hand in the other goals scored by Manjarin and Fran.

La Coruna are level-pegging on five points with Athletic Bilbao, Valencia and Atletico Madrid. Bilbao shared a draw, goalless draw at home against Real's Great rivals Barcelona, while Valencia came away 1-0 winners from Santander and Atletico Madrid held on after being three goals up to score a 3-2 home win over Celta Vigo.

In Italy Torino were knocked off the top of the table by Parma, whose brilliant striker Faustino Asprilla scored a hat-trick. His fifth goal in five days gave Parma a 3-0 win over and Tor-

no's defeat gave AC Milan the chance to go top by themselves for the first time this season.

Milan, who beat ten-man Roma 2-0 thanks to goals from Dometrio Albertino and Stefano Nava, are they are now the only unbeaten team in Serie A.

Roma had defender Daniele Berretta sent off for a series of fouls on Roberto Donadoni in a match also marred by crowd trouble — a policeman and two young fans being hurt in scuffles.

Sampdoria went second with a 2-0 win at struggling Udinese. David Platt's third goal of the season set up the win and Roberto Mancini hit the second for Sampdoria.

Juventus inflicted a 4-0 defeat on newly-promoted Reggiana. Their goals came from Fabrizio Ravanelli, Andy Moeller, Roberto Baggio and Alessandro Del Piero in the second-half.

Lazio, who have scored only twice all season, drew 0-0 for the third time in five matches — this time at home to Inter Milan. Disgraced Marseille beat pacemakers Bordeaux 3-1 in an explosive encounter that saw the French championship race thrown wide open.

The grudge match, born out of years of bitter rivalry between the sides, was soon justified and Bordeaux played most of the violent

match with 10 men.

It was Marseille's first home match since being banned from the European Cup and the home fans were stunned when the visitors took the lead in the second minute — Stéphane Paille needing two shots to beat goalkeeper Fabien Barthez.

Bordeaux's game started to collapse, however, when Zinedine Zidane was sent off in the 37th minute for punching Marseille defender Marcel Desailly.

Eric Di Meco got the equaliser with a 35-yard shot in an equally dramatic start to the second-half which saw more clashes.

Bordeaux's Didier Senac laid out German striker Rudy Voller while Marseille defender Basile Boli tried a similar tactic on a Bordeaux opponent. All were lucky to avoid red cards but six yellow cards were shown in 20 minutes.

Daniel Dutuel got Marseille's second with another superb shot and in the final minute William Purnier headed the third goal from a free-kick.

Co-leaders Cannes were beaten for the first time this season when they went down 2-1 at Montpellier, while Paris St Germain, who had a difficult 1-0

win against part-timers Apollon Nicosia in the European Cup Winners cup in midweek, bounced back with their 3-1 win at Lyon.

A cross by Liberian James Debbah was deflected into the Paris goal by Patrick Colletier, but it was another Liberian, Paris striker George Weah who decided the match.

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WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
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DROP A THANK-YOU NOTE

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ Q J 9 6
♥ 9 8 3
♦ K J 7 5
♣ J 8
WEST
♠ 7 5 3 2
♥ K 10 4
♦ 8 2
♣ K 7 5 4
EAST
♠ 8 4
♥ Q J 8 7 5
♦ Q J 10 9 6
♣ A 6

SOUTH
♠ K 10
♥ A 2
♦ A 3
♣ Q 10 9 3 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♣ NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠
Once in a while an opponent will lead your best suit—a heart-warming choice that meets with your approval. It behooves you to send a thank-you note.

The North-South auction is not without interest. North first checked on the possibility of a 4-4 major fit, then invited game. With 17 points and a five-card suit, South

could hardly refuse. West's opening lead was obviously from a four-card suit. Declarer was delighted at the turn of events. The defenders had not found their best lead, hearts, and South wanted to do everything possible to encourage a continuation. So when East put up the ace, South said thanks by contributing the nine!

It looked to East that West had attached from a six-card suit, so East had no compunction about returning a club. That set up a fast 10 tricks for declarer. Had South woodenly played the deuce to the first trick, East might or might not have found the heart shift. All we know is that, as the play went, it was near impossible for East to do so.

There is a moral to this hand and it can be summed up in this bit of advice which will stand you in good stead. As declarer, if you want to encourage or discourage the defenders from continuing a suit, signal in exactly the same way as they would. In other words, play a high card when you want them to continue the suit, low when you are trying to coax them to shift.

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T O D A Y	Concord Tel.: 677420	PLAZA Tel.: 695238	PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625153
	CONCORD 1 The Bonfire Of The Vanities Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD 2 Passenger 57 Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	Adel Imam in Wad Sayyed Al Shaghal play (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30	Robert Redford Demi Moore — in INDECENT PROPOSAL A special show for children at 11 a.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays Problem Child 2 Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	presents a play entitled: Al Iim Nuron A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shorail In addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day	Returns to you Thursday Aug. 26 in the play. Arab Summit Conference

U.S. to host meeting of donors to Mideast deal

Combined agency dispatches

NEW YORK — The United States and Russia are to co-sponsor a conference to raise up to \$3 billion in aid for the occupied territories, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Monday.

"If peace is to be achieved, the agreement must be translated into results quickly and vividly," Mr. Christopher said in a foreign policy speech at Columbia University.

He was referring to the peace plan signed in Washington a week ago by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel which gives the Palestinians limited autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Mr. Christopher said that the World Bank had estimated that \$3 billion would be needed over the next 10 years to revive the economies of the West Bank and Gaza.

He said Russia would co-sponsor the talks and that foreign and finance ministers from Europe, Japan, Canada, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf would also take part along with Israelis and Palestinians.

"The World Bank would coordinate the aid programme. A senior U.S. official who asked not to be named said the meeting would likely be held in Washington on Oct. 1, although other sources said it could go ahead in New York where the General Assembly will open Tuesday.

Mr. Christopher was speaking at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. He did not specify how much of the contributions would be turned over to the PLO-run Palestinian entity that is to take administrative charge in Gaza and Jericho. Later it will be in charge throughout the West Bank.

While Mr. Christopher also spoke of the need to improve security, his emphasis on the "daily lives" of the Palestinians and Israelis suggested that most

of the money would go to Palestinians. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said in Washington last week one million Gazans were at the brink of starvation.

"It would be a great mistake if America were now to withdraw or shrink from its full and long-standing partnership in the peace process," Mr. Christopher said, "our leadership is essential if this historic agreement is to realise its full potential."

He drew a parallel between the fund-raising effort and the Bush administration's successful drive to raise billions of dollars from wealthy countries to finance the war against Iraq.

Mr. Christopher also said: "Congress should move quickly to change laws that inhibit U.S. dealing with the PLO. The Arabs should revoke their economic boycott of companies that do business with Israel. 'The boycott is a relic of the past,' he said. 'It is a relic that should be relegated to history now.'

— Governments attending the special session of the U.N. General Assembly later this month should abandon their customary challenge of Israel's credentials and "its very right to exist."

— President Bill Clinton will appoint a task force of Jewish and Arab Americans to help the administration develop joint projects and private investment in the region. A senior coordinator for U.S. assistance will be named. "I reiterate a simple but profound truth: Only an Israel that is strong, confident and secure can make peace," Mr. Christopher said.

"Only an Israel that is certain of its strategic partnership with the United States can take the necessary risks."

Senior U.S. officials said last week the Clinton administration was prepared to provide Israel with new jet warplanes once the Israeli government decided which ones it wants.

The World Bank opened a two-day meeting in Washington Monday on how to aid the

Palestinians in the occupied territories to overcome their economic problems (see page 2).

Regional cooperation as well as the World Bank's report on the West Bank and Gaza Strip were high on the agenda.

The PLO was represented by Wassef Sawhig and Samir Abdullah, while Israel was represented by foreign ministry official Oded Eran and Mickey Eran of the central bank.

EC team visits Gulf

European Community (EC) officials arrived in Abu Dhabi Monday to seek the help of Gulf states in helping the redevelopment of Palestinian lands.

The group is led by Eric Deryche, Belgium's minister of state for development and cooperation.

"Our Gulf tour is part of the EC efforts to discuss with the Gulf Arab states means of cooperation in financing the ongoing peace process in the Middle East," Mr. Deryche told reporters.

The visit began over the weekend in Saudi Arabia, where it received little publicity. The EC officials also are to visit Kuwait and Oman.

Mr. Deryche said he was advised by Saudi officials that the kingdom is ready to help. He gave no details.

Mr. Deryche said the PLO was seeking to form a group, with EC leadership, to coordinate international aid to the autonomous Palestinians areas.

The EC already has allotted 90 million European currency units (\$108 million) to assist Palestinian this year. This is in addition to bilateral aid from individual European member states, he said.

"For the next four years, starting 1994 and until 1998, the EC allotted a budget of 500 million ECUs for the reconstruction of Palestinian land. This \$600 million will be paid at the rate of around \$125 million ECUs (\$150 million) every year during the four-year period," he said.



His Majesty King Hussein with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat after Mr. Arafat's arrival in Amman, Monday (photo by Aynsley Floyd)

Israeli team arrives in Tunis

TUNIS (AP) — An Israeli foreign ministry team arrived in Tunis Monday in a ground-breaking visit to an Arab country which does not recognise the Jewish state.

The visit came one week after Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an agreement at the White House on limited self-rule for the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

The three-man team was surrounded by heavy police security, and reporters were kept away.

It consists of Shlomo Gur, a political adviser to Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin; Media adviser Yossi Gal; and Nissim Ben-Shitreet, administrative deputy director-general.

Plainclothes policemen prevented reporters from approaching the VIP lounge at Carthage airport, where the three-man team was received by Tunisian and PLO officials.

After the welcoming ceremony, the team was driven to the Hilton Hotel in a Tunis suburb. Journalists were blocked from entering the hotel, and operators refused to put calls through to the men.

The Israelis are to hold talks with officials from the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on preparations for a working group meeting here Oct. 12-15 on Palestinian refugees.

The group is among several meetings on multilateral issues alongside the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks.

It will be the first time such a meeting is held in an Arab country that has no diplomatic ties with Israel.

Diplomats said the delegation was to meet later in the day with Tunisian Foreign Ministry official Saeed Ben Mustafah.

The delegation also is to hold talks with senior PLO officials on implementing the peace accord, the diplomats said.

PLO sources said the Israelis would meet with Mahmoud Abbas, a PLO Executive Committee member who was involved in secret negotiations that preceded the PLO-Israel agreement, and Hakan Bala'wi, the PLO's representative to Tunis. They gave no details.

The Tunisian media made no mention of the visit.

Intifada leaflet criticises accord

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The underground leadership of the uprising against Israel's occupation criticised the main Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction Monday for signing an agreement with Israel that it said ignored basic Palestinian demands.

"The agreement reached between a branch of the PLO and the Zionist enemy does not meet the minimum of the demands that were raised by our masses when the uprising started," said the leaflet.

It was the first leaflet to be issued by the Unified National Command since the Israeli-Palestinian pact was signed a week ago.

The Unified National Command has been directing the uprising that started in December 1987 and has seen hundreds of thousands killed, and hundreds of thousands imprisoned in the fight against Israel's occupation.

"No Israeli withdrawal has been achieved, no recognition of the Palestinian national rights, no establishment of a Palestinian state and no freeze and removal of the settlements," the pamphlet said.

The leaflet said the agreement, which it said was the work of just Fateh, the main PLO faction, will not mean an end to the struggle against the Israeli occupation.

"The intifada will go on as long there is occupation and the Israeli forces are on our land," the leaflet said.

The leaflet said the agreement, which it said was the work of just Fateh, the main PLO faction, will not mean an end to the struggle against the Israeli occupation.

"The intifada will go on as long there is occupation and the Israeli forces are on our land," the leaflet said.

"Let all our activities be against the occupation forces and the settlers," it said, referring to 120,000 Jews living in the West Bank and an additional 4,000 in the Gaza Strip.

Also Monday, Imad Hussein Sharif, 19, from the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip died in Tel Hashomer hospital in Israel from wounds sustained last week after soldiers opened fire at a group of marchers who were protesting the Israeli-Palestinian agreement in the camp.

The leaflet, number 98 in a series that started early in 1988, also urged Palestinians to avoid internal feuds over the Israel-PLO accord signed in Washington last week.

It was unclear whether PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fateh fully backed the leaflet.

COLUMN

Clinton says his job is vision, not mechanics

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Being presidential means offering a vision for the country, not micro-managing government, President Bill Clinton said in an interview. Mr. Clinton told Time Magazine in an interview for the Sept. 27 edition he had learned over the past few months how to better carry out his functions as chief executive. "I hope that maybe I can do a better job as we go along of letting people know what the big motivating factors behind... decisions are," he said. "And I think that's really what a president's job is. A president is not America's chief mechanic." "I got hired to do what I'm trying to do, to set forth a vision," said Mr. Clinton, citing as his paradigm then-President John Kennedy's announcement that the United States would send a man to the moon. Mr. Clinton has laid out an ambitious agenda of getting the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and Mexico passed, reforming health care and making government more efficient. He told the weekly that he had not known that former President Jimmy Carter would harshly criticise billionaire anti-NAFTA advocate Ross Perot after a breakfast with Mr. Clinton. Mr. Carter and former Presidents Gerald Ford and George Bush. "There were other candidates for the prize," said Mr. Clinton. Mr. Carter told reporters after the meeting that Mr. Perot, who has bought television time to attack the agreement, was a "demagogue" with limitless financial resources.

Menem's helicopter crash-lands

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem escaped unhurt when a Chinook helicopter carrying him to a remote northern area crashed into an abandoned house from a height of five metres. One of the 30 officials in Menem's retinue told the daily Clarin that the helicopter, hobbled when one of its two engines failed, had impaled itself on one of the house's girders, which pierced its floor towards the front. Mr. Menem, a keen racing driver and pilot himself, was quickly ushered out through a side door together with his officials. No injuries were reported in the accident, which took place Saturday in Formosa province, some 1,200 kilometres north of Buenos Aires. Mr. Menem joked to reporters afterwards that local residents were not about to forget the day's events. "No one ever dies a day early," Dyn News Agency quoted Mr. Menem as saying. "When the time comes he (God) will call us; that's why we're here."

Norma Major has high profile, low tea in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Norma Major stooped, bent and knelt her way through a traditional Japanese tea ceremony held in her honour Monday at a famed Tokyo tea house. The wife of the visiting British prime minister was served a cup of green tea by the 14th generation tea master of the Omote Senke School of Kyoto. The formal tea ceremony dates back to the return to Japan of a Buddhist monk from Song Dynasty China in 1191, adepts say. At first, the leaves steeped in boiling water were drunk for medicinal purposes. Later, the act of infusion developed into a high art form. Even today, tea masters are among the most respected figures in Japanese culture. Norma Major knelt politely for the cameras at the end of the 20-minute closed ceremony, although her translator revealed that she had chosen earlier to briefly sit and stretch her legs. "Kneeling wasn't too bad, although probably not for a very long time," she said later. Traditional tea houses have very low doors and passageways and Norma, who stood head and shoulders above her hosts, had to weave and duck her way in and out of the historic school.

Dead man identified in case linked to James Caan

LOS ANGELES (R) — Police has identified a man found dead outside a posh apartment block in a case in which actor James Caan was questioned as a possible murder witness. But officials remained tight-lipped about details of the investigation that began Saturday with the discovery of the man's body at the apartment complex where the 54-year-old actor was staying. The victim was identified as Mark Schwartz, 25, of Los Angeles.

Settlers campaign to foil peace deal

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Jewish settlers are staging a four-day campaign to try and overturn the Palestinian autonomy accord which goes to the Israeli parliament this week, the organisers said Monday.

Under a banner reading "Israel is in danger" settlers have built a stage outside parliament for speakers to rally demonstrators from Tuesday when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin opens the debate.

Settlers' council spokesman Shai Bazak said thousands would turn up to protest.

The campaign was to kick off Monday evening with settlers draping Israeli flags over the walls of Old Jerusalem.

"This is our response to the raising of (Palestinian) flags," said Mr. Bazak, referring to Palestinian celebrations a week ago marking the signing of the historic accord with Israel.

Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho is due to start from Oct. 13.

On Tuesday, settlers will gather to pray at the Western Wall and then march through the Muslim quarter of the Old City in a procession to parliament.

Mr. Rabin has a guaranteed majority of one seat for the autonomy vote in parliament and five Israeli-Arab or Arab-Israeli deputies, despite a split in his ruling coalition.

About 50,000 people protested against the autonomy accord two weeks ago, after a similar demonstration by supporters of the agreement.

Former Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin charged Monday that Mr. Rabin was handing out land to the Arabs like a "lord of the manor."

"Rabin is acting like the rich lord of the manor, handing out pieces of his vast lands — Judea-Samaria (West Bank) and Gaza — to the PLO, the Golan Plateau to the Syrians and so on," Mr. Shamir angrily told Israel Radio.

"Israel will come out of it as naked as a worm. And then what will happen? May God have pity on us," he said on the eve of the parliamentary debate.

Mr. Shamir recalled that his right-wing Likud party, which lost the June 1992 elections, had seen its role as a guardian of the territory Israel seized in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

"Prime Minister Rabin has decided to get rid of it methodically whilst we were against any territorial concessions."

A report in Haaretz newspaper said the number of violent attacks by Palestinians in the occupied

2 killed in Mogadishu gunbattles

Combined agency dispatches

MOGADISHU — U.S. helicopter gunships shot dead two armed Somalis after a sniper wounded a Pakistani peacekeeper inspecting a suspected mine here Monday, a United Nations spokesman said.

The clash followed a troubled night during which U.S. Cobra helicopters retaliating to mortar fire from suspected militiamen of wanted warlord Mohammed Farah Aidede pounded the mortar emplacements with cannons and rockets. Captain Tim McDavitt said.

Pakistani soldiers clearing barricades from the notoriously dangerous 21 October Road in General Aidede's south Mogadishu stronghold came under small arms fire when they stopped to inspect a device on the road believed to be a mine.

A Pakistani private was wounded and U.S. Cobra helicopters shot down two Somalis nearby armed with rocket-propelled grenades, Capt. McDavitt said.

The private's wounds were "non-life-threatening" and he was in "stable condition," Capt. McDavitt said.

Four American soldiers were killed in a mine blast in Somalia's embattled capital last month and the Pentagon has sent minesweepers to its forces here.

But they also face a new threat from mortars.

U.N. peacekeepers controlling Mogadishu airport came under mortar fire soon after nightfall Sunday, McDavitt said.

They used sophisticated radars to detect the firing position, in a field in the Medina neighbourhood. U.S. helicopters were believed to have destroyed the mortars with 20-cannon. Capt. McDavitt said.

A Pakistani patrol then sent to clear the area came under "heavy small arms fire," Capt. McDavitt said. They shot back in a skirmish lasting about an hour and withdrew.

A few hours later another six mortar shells hit the airport and helicopters fired cannons and rockets at another suspected mortar emplacement beside Digfer Hospital.

They also fired again at the Medina mortar positions where militiamen had again been sighted. There were no confirmed reports of casualties," Capt. McDavitt said.

Many of the U.N. casualties have been around the bombed-out factory warehouses along October 21 Road where the U.N. says some of Gen. Aidede's weapons are thought to be hidden.

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Top leaders from Croatia and Bosnia huddled Monday with international mediators on a British warship in the Adriatic Sea, trying to wrap up a deal to end the Bosnian war.

The surprise talks appeared aimed at resolving the biggest obstacle to a settlement — access to the sea for the landlocked, Muslim-dominated Bosnian state that would be created by a three-way division of the republic.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and an unidentified Bosnian Serb representative joined mediators Lord David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg.

The mediators hope to get the leaders of all three warring factions to Sarajevo to sign a peace accord Tuesday, but must first resolve the port issue.

Peace talks collapsed in Geneva on Sept. 1 when the Bosnian Serbs and Croats both balked at giving Mr. Izetbegovic's Muslims more territory. Mr. Tudjman flat-

ly refused to cede the port of Neum to Muslims but now appears willing to offer Croat-controlled access to the nearby Croatian port of Ploce.

Elsewhere Monday, Muslim-led government forces and ethnic Croats battled in central Bosnia, but a cease-fire brought unusual quiet across the country.

Bosnian government forces continued their push to expand the northern and southern ends of a 200-kilometre front line running through central Bosnia. They need to control this region in order to get supplies through to Sarajevo and surrounding areas this winter.

The Muslim-led Bosnian forces made "significant gains" of 10-11 kilometres north of the contested southwestern city of Mostar, said U.N. spokesman Bill Alkman.

The Croats seek Mostar as the capital of their Bosnian ministate. The British Foreign office in London said the Muslim, Croat and Serb representatives were meeting Lord Owen and Mr.

Witness says he infiltrated Muta plot

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

MARKA — The State Security Court Monday heard the first prosecution witness in the Muta University case, in which 10 defendants are accused of conspiring to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein.

The witness, a student at Muta University, a military academy south of Amman, testified that five Muta students among the accused were members of an Islamic group which was plotting to shoot the King at a graduation ceremony.

The witness stood facing the panel of three military judges with his back to the eight defendants.

Two of the accused were tried in absentia.

No names could be mentioned in media reports of the case.

After the witness testified, Prosecutor Major Mohammad Hijazi said that his testimony was incomplete in relation to the testimony made in August to the prosecution. After repeated objections from the defence, which tried to discredit the witness asserting that his testimony was incomplete because it was based on lies, the court clerk read out the testimony he had made earlier to the prosecution.

Presiding Judge Colonel Hafez Amin asked the witness if that first testimony was true, and the witness replied, "definitely, I have sworn on the Koran."

A brother of one of the defendants, who was also detained in the same case but later released, cried out against the witness that he was lying because "a two-metre tall armed military police is standing behind him, and you expect him to tell the truth?"

Col. Amin asked the military police to remove the brother from the courtroom, and the rest of his family followed him as the women shouted, "he (witness) was told exactly what to say, but he could not memorise the whole story."

After the outburst, the defence insisted that the court register a comment the witness made: "Why should you bother me, I'm in charge of a family and I want to live." The defence was apparently trying to establish that the witness was under duress from the security authorities, while the witness was trying to say he refused to be threatened by the public in the courtroom.

The defence also objected to another comment the witness made confidently to lawyers: "You are taking advantage of what I'm saying to your benefit. Are you going to do this to the eight witnesses who will testify to the same thing?"

In addition to charges of conspiring to kill the monarch, the defendants are also accused of plotting to replace the regime with an Islamic caliphate state, changing the Constitution through "illegal and violent" means, and belonging to an illegal group, the Islamic Liberation Party (ILP).

In April and May, over 30 people were detained at the General Intelligence Department (GID) related to the case, but most were released last month. Two senior members of the ILP are still in detention. According to lawyers, 30 alleged members of the Islamic Party were arrested last week and are in detention. But this could not be officially confirmed on Monday. The ILP has categorically denied any involvement in the plot to assassinate the King.

The 20-year-old witness delivered a long statement in court Monday, with details on how he allegedly discovered that some of the students were planning to shoot the King, and that they belonged to an Islamic group. His testimony named some of the defendants, who listened quietly as they shook their heads, while others grinned and whispered to each other. They began to scribble notes on paper supplied by their lawyers.

The unmarried witness testified

that as soon as one of the defendants told him of the plot and tried to recruit him to an unnamed Islamic group last February, he took the information to GID after recommendations from a relative and the dean of a faculty at the university.

"The GID called me and asked me to stick close to these students, and not to share the information with any other department," the witness said, adding that he began to learn more about who was involved in the alleged plot and continued to brief the GID on new findings.

He continued that when one of the defendants who was supposed to kill the King left the group, he told them "I was ready to shoot him myself."

"All my directives were from the GID, but it was my own initiative when I suggested I do the shooting myself," the witness said, responding to a specific question by Col. Amin after the defence insisted that the court clerk record that the witness was taking orders from the GID.

Before cross-examining the witness, lawyer Jawad Younis objected to the testimony, saying that he and some of the defendants had their differences.

"The witness represents an element of investigation in committing crimes which are directed by the GID apparatus," Mr. Younis told the court. "He could not memorise his testimony."

The lawyer asked the court to detain the witness "for placing doubts on the honour of this court by claiming that it did not give him the chance to give his full testimony."

Maj. Hijazi described the defence request to detain the witness as "threats against the witness," adding that the man in the witness stand had come under threats from inside the courtroom and outside.

"It is not true that the witness was detained at the GID, and the defence should give details on what the differences are between the witness and the defendants."

The defence should give details on what the differences are between the witness and the defendants.

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